Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-143
Wednesday
28 July 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-143 28 Jul 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Delegate Cited on Possible Emergency Session *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Parties Voice Solidarity With PFLP-GC *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
Conference Condemns Israeli Attack on Lebanon *[Tunis Radio]* 1
'Ashrawi on Christopher Visit, Lebanon Events *[Jerusalem TV]* 1
Christopher Remarks 'Do Not Serve' Peace Process *[AL-QUDS 27 Jul]* 1
'Urayqat Discusses U.S. Role in Talks *[Cairo International]* 2
Al-Husayni on 'Abd-al-Shafi, Peace Process *[AL-MANAR 26 Jul]* 3
Habash Arrives in Amman After Meeting Fatah in Tunis *[AL-DUSTUR 28 Jul]* 4
Al-Khatib: Hamas Agrees to Deportees' Gradual Return
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Jul] 5

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Musa: Israel Should Halt Action in Lebanon *[MENA]* 6
Telephones Lebanon's Buwayz *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Parliamentary Committee Condemns Israel's Attacks *[MENA]* 6
Papers Denounce Israel's Offensive in Lebanon *[MENA]* 6
Talks With Sudan Conclude; Press Communique Issued *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Ministers Comment on Talks *[MENA]* 7
Prosecutor Demands Death Sentence for 32 Defendants *[MENA]* 8

Libya

International Reaction to Israeli Attacks Criticized *[Tripoli International]* 8
Paper on 'Withdrawal' of Jallud From Political Scene *[London AL-WASAT 26 Jul-1 Aug]* 8

Morocco

Foreign Ministry 'Strongly Condemns' Israeli Attack on Lebanon *[Rabat TV]* 10
National Commission on Elections To Resume Meetings *[MAP]* 11

Sudan

Ministry Official Condemns Israeli Raids *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
U.S. Request for Deportation of Iranian Rejected *[London AL-HAYAH 24 Jul]* 11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

State Condemns Israeli 'Acts of Hostility' in Lebanon *[WAKH]* 13

Kuwait

'Strong Condemnation' of Israeli Actions Issued *[Kuwait Radio]* 13
Parliament Urges UN To End Israeli Attacks on Lebanon *[KUNA]* 13

Saudi Arabia

Press Condemns Israeli Air Strikes Against Lebanon *[SPA]* 13

IRAQ

UN Begins Installing Cameras, Praises Iraqi Cooperation *[AFP]* 15
35 Kg of Radioactive Fuel To Be Tranferred to Russia *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 15
National Assembly Condemns Israeli Raid on Lebanon *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
Kurdish Families Said To Flee Autonomous Region *[INA]* 16

ISRAEL

IDF Officers Review Lebanon Operation 27 Jul *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Operation Said Expanding *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Katyushas Hit Western Galilee 28 Jul; One Injured 19
Early Morning Attack Reported *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 19
Second Attack Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Woman Injured *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Baraq: Lebanon Operation 'Successful So Far' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Rabin Briefs Knesset Committee on Lebanese Operation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Peres: Pressure To Continue While Katyushas Fired *[London MBC TV]* 21
Offers Reasons for Operation *[Jerusalem TV]* 21
Says No Secret Talks Under Way *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Shahal Believes 'Message' of Action Understood *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Minister Rubinstein Discusses IDF Operation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Cabinet Session Ends; No Decisions on Operation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Christopher Visit Called Separate Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Savir: U.S. Agrees Peace Process Should Continue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Minister Comments on Expanded Operation; U.S. Role *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
Sarid on al-Shar' Statement, Peace Process *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
France Asked To Use Influence To Stop Hizballah *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
MK Goldfarb: Tzomet Prepared to Join Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Tzomet Denies Talks Under Way *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
New Israeli Early Warning Aircraft Detailed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 27 Jul]* 26
Arms Trading Report Submitted to UN Register *[HA'ARETZ 28 Jul]* 26

JORDAN

Prince Hasan Receives Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister 28
'Aziz Attends Banquet *[Amman Radio]* 28
Iraqi Sanctions, Jordan's Role Discussed *[Amman TV]* 28
'Aziz Notes 'Deep Satisfaction' With Ties *[INA]* 28
Hasan Denounces Lebanon Events *[Amman TV]* 28
Leaders, Press Cited on Israeli Attack on Lebanon 29
King Sees Risk to Peace Talks *[AFP]* 29
Prince Hasan Comments *[Amman TV]* 29
Al-Majali on 'Serious Consequences' *[Amman TV]* 29
Deputies Denounce Israeli Raids *[Amman TV]* 30
Israeli 'Contempt' for Peace Process *[AL-RA'Y 28 Jul]* 30
Events 'Clear Message' For Christopher *[JORDAN TIMES 28 Jul]* 30
UN General Assembly President Arrives on 3-Day Visit *[Amman Radio]* 31
Al-Majali Receives Ganev *[Amman Radio* 31
King Husyan Plans Official Visits To France, Turkey *[Amman Radio]* 32
Turkish Foreign Minister Holds Press Conference 27 Jul *[JORDAN TIMES 28 Jul]* 32
Crown Prince, Moroccan King Denounce Israeli 'Aggression' *[Amman Radio]* 33

Al-Majali Cited on 'Loopholes' in Electoral Law *[JORDAN TIMES 28 Jul]* 33

LEBANON

Israeli Air Raids, Shelling Continue 27 Jul 35
Attacks on Hizballah Confirmed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
PFLP-GC Centers Shelled *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 35
Israelis Warn Against Road Traffic *[Voice of the South]* 35
Data on IDF Operation Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Casualty Report Updated *[VOL]* 35
More Israel. Attacks Reported in South 28 Jul 36
Hizballah Vows To Resist *[AFP]* 36
Hizballah Radio on Attacks *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
Israeli Tank Destroyed *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 37
Hizballah Fighters Killed *[VOL]* 37
Raid Results in 14 Killed *[VOL]* 37
Temporary Cease-Fire Declared *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
Defense Minister Visits Army Frontline Positions *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Parliament Recommends Measures to Government *[RFL]* 38
Samahah Statement on Extraordinary Session *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Emergency Committee Issues Statement *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Al-Hirawi Says Country United Against Aggression *[VOM]* 40
Moves to B'abda Palace *[VOL]* 40
Christopher Phones al-Hariri, Discusses Situation *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Birri Blames U.S. for Israeli Aggression *[RFL]* 41
UN Envoy Calls On U.S. To Stop Israeli Attacks *[VOL]* 41
Foreign Minister on Security Council Complaint *[RFL]* 41
Hizballah Leader Sends Reply Cable to Khamene'i *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 42
Vows To Continue Resistance *[RFL]* 42
Hizballah Source Calls Israeli Operation Failure *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 42
Hizballah Official Denounces French Stand on Attack *[Voice the Oppressed]* 43
Amal: Raid Prompted By U.S.-European Decision *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43
Palestinian Group Threatens Retaliation *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43

SYRIA

Officials Confer on Israeli Bombing of Lebanon 44
Christopher Phones Al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Al-Shar' on Future of Peace Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 44
Cabinet Discusses Attack's Impact *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Israeli Operation in Lebanon 'Disgrace to Humanity' *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Israeli Raids Render U.S. Mission 'Meaningless' *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Russia's Posuvalyuk Calls on Foreign Minister al-Shar' 46
Delivers Message From Moscow *[Damascus TV]* 46
Khaddam, Posuvalyuk on Israeli 'Aggression' *[Damascus Radio]* 46

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Cabinet Discusses 'Important' Political, Border Issues *[Kabul Radio]* 47
Foreign Minister Appeals to UN for Aid in Drug Campaign *[Kabul Radio]* 47

Bangladesh

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia Pledge $120 Million in Assistance *[Dhaka Radio]* 47

India

No-Confidence Debate Continues in Parliament 48
Vote Expected 28 Jul *[Delhi Radio]* 48

CPI-M Cites Reasons for Vote *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Congress-I Confident on Vote *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Further on 27 Jul Debate *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Minister Comments on Nuclear Energy Potential *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Outgoing Air Force Chief on Combat-Readiness *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 11 Jul]* 49
Two Kashmir Army Officers Reportedly Killed; 18 Kidnapped *[Islamabad TV]* 50
Rao Briefs Parliament on Russian Rocket Engine Deal *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Spokesman Asks Israel, Lebanon To End Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Paper Questions U.S. Sincerity In Curbing Terrorism *[ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA 17 Jul]* 51
U.S. 'Blatant Posture' Over Cargill Affair Protested *[INDIAN EXPRESS 21 Jul]* 51
Commodity Exchange Accord Signed With Bangladesh *[Delhi Radio]* 52

Iran

'No Major Difference' in Clinton, Bush Policies *[RESALAT 10 Jul]* 52
Economic, Trade Agreement Signed With Libya *[Tehran Radio]* 53
• Customs, Transport Agreement Signed With Turkmenistan *[KEYHAN-E HAVAI 23 Jun]* 54
Tehran Hopes To Close Nuclear Deal With Russia *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Jul]* 54
Rafsanjani Condemns Israeli Attacks on South Lebanon *[IRNA]* 55
President Condemns Armenian 'Occupation' of Agdam *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Khamene'i Condemns Aggression Against Muslims *[IRNA]* 55
Khamene'i Addresses Citizens of Tabriz *[Tehran TV]* 55
President Expresses Regret at Libyan 'Hardships' *[IRNA]* 56
Hashemi-Rafsanjani To Visit Kazakhstan 'Soon' *[IRNA]* 56
• Complete Reshuffle of New Cabinet Rumored *[London KEYHAN 15 Jul]* 56

Pakistan

Government Ready To Sign Nuclear Test Ban Pact *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Editorial on Bid To End Nuclear 'Rift' With U.S. *[NAWA-I-WAQT 26 Jul]* 57
Editorial Assails U.S. Over Chinese Missiles Issue *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 23 Jul]* 58
Sharif Confident of Securing 'Massive Majority' in Election *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party Withdraws Support for PPP *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Finance Ministry Spokesman Denies Foreign Exchange Crisis *[THE NEWS 26 Jul]* 59

Sri Lanka

Premier Invites LTTE To Enter Negotiations *[Colombo International]* 59
LTTE Attacks Army Camp in Northeast *[Colombo International]* 59

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Delegate Cited on Possible Emergency Session

NC2807100793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador Nu'man Jalal, Egypt's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has said that Egypt is currently holding consultations with a number of Arab countries to hold an emergency session of the Arab League Council in Damascus.

In a statement to MENA, Jalal said that the move is in response to a request by the Lebanese Government. The Lebanese Government sent an urgent memorandum to the Arab League requesting an emergency session of the Arab League Council in Damascus on Friday [30 July], Jalal noted.

The Egyptian official expected Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to head Egypt's delegation to the meeting. He pointed out that the date of the meeting will be determined based on the current consultations.

Palestinian Affairs

Parties Voice Solidarity With PFLP-GC

JN2707191493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Delegations from a number of parties and organizations have visited the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command's [PFLP-GC] office in Beirut to express solidarity with the PFLP-GC, whose humanitarian and social centers in the al-Na'imah hills and positions in northern Lebanon came under Zionist attacks.

These delegations included a delegation from the 10 Palestinian factions [that oppose Palestinian participation in peace talks], a delegation from Fatah-Revolutionary Council, a delegation from the PLO factions, a delegation representing the Hizballah Political Bureau, a delegation from the Syrian National Social Party-the Supreme Council, and a delegation from Hizballah women's organizations.

Conference Condemns Israeli Attack on Lebanon

LD2707141293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The conference of officials supervising Palestinian affairs, which will go on until 1 August, has sent an urgent appeal to the United Nations and to the member-states of the Security Council to condemn the aggression on Lebanon and bring about its immediate halt.

'Ashrawi on Christopher Visit, Lebanon Events

TA2707181393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the negotiating delegation, by Yoni Ben-Menahem; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, are you continuing your preparations for Warren Christopher's visit to the region?

['Ashrawi] Yes. Intensive discussions, talks, and consultations are under way in the occupied territories and with the leadership in Tunis to prepare for Christopher's visit.

[Ben-Menahem] Is there, in your opinion, any benefit in Christopher's visit in light of what is taking place in Lebanon?

['Ashrawi] What is happening in Lebanon naturally has a very negative and direct effect on the climate of the talks and the substance of the talks. In fact, this raises real doubts about Israel's intentions and its commitment to international legitimacy and the aims and principles of the peace process. Israel should immediately stop shelling southern and eastern Lebanon and adhere to dialogue and negotiations as the means for solving differences. Israel should not try to use the military solution together with the negotiating solution. Thes two options cannot be compatible. There is only one option, namely that of real negotiations based on the concept of justice and international law. As for acts of violence and the military option, they can never lead to any result, rather on the contrary they drag the entire region to a new wave of mutual violence.

Christopher Remarks 'Do Not Serve' Peace Process

TA2707192293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Jul 93 p 11

[Editorial: "In Order To Avoid an Explosion"]

[Excerpts] The dangerous escalation in south Lebanon within sight and earshot of the international community has called to mind the specter of war, with all its repugnance and tragic and destructive effects. This escalation has proved that progress toward war, death, and destruction in this region of the world is quicker and more easily achieved than progress toward peace and solving conflicts by peaceful means. [passage omitted]

If the United States is really concerned about peace in this region, statements such as those made yesterday by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in which he held the Lebanese resistance responsible for the escalation in south Lebanon, do not serve the peace process. He ignored the basic causes for the current situation, the foremost of which is Israel's continued occupation of the territory of a sovereign state and a member of the United

Nations. He also ignored Israel's refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from occupied Lebanese territory. This is a basic cause for the existing escalation and tension. Christopher realizes, as does the U.S. Administration, that attempts to impose the occupation and draw a map of the region by military force are the main threats to this region's security and stability and that any power keen on peace and security must act to address those causes in keeping with the will of the international community and its legitimate resolutions.

If the United States continues to overlook the occupation and the suffering of people whose national soil is under this occupation and if it attempts to impose what one party wants at the expense of the other in contravention of international legitimacy, then this is a policy very far removed from the policy of peace. It reinforces the conviction that any country adopting this policy loses the credibility to mediate in the peace talks. This country also loses the credibility to lead the new world order which is supposed to consolidate the principles of justice, freedom, and peace and affirm the rights of nations to full sovereignty over their national soil.

'Urayqat Discusses U.S. Role in Talks

NC2807083093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the negotiating delegation, in Jerusalem by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] What do the Palestinians expect Warren Christopher's Middle East tour to bring and what proposals will they submit to him?

['Urayqat] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all during the Middle East tour of the U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross some weeks ago, the Palestinians submitted a new formula concerning the issues of jurisdiction over territory and Jerusalem. We told the Americans that instead of submitting draft proposals, attention should be given to these issues to lay strong foundations for Palestinian-Israeli peace. We are waiting for a response; we have not yet received a response to this proposed formula. It should be recalled that the United States realizes that a solution is inconceivable without Palestinian jurisdiction over the territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, which cannot be excluded from those territories. Another point raised is connected with the U.S. role itself. The United States continues to say that it is playing a full partner's role. The Americans, at any rate, are not playing the role of intermediary or arbiter. Consequently many questions have been raised over what a full partner's role means. The full partner—who is also the peace sponsor—must intervene by adopting public stances. Everyone knows that the U.S. position since 1967 on East Jerusalem has stated that it is occupied territory.

[Al-Jundi] Don't you think, however, that if Washington had submitted its own ideas during the 10th rounds of talks, this would not have been part of the full partner's prerogatives?

['Urayqat] Submitting ideas falls within a full partner's prerogatives. However, what is important are the ideas themselves. A full partner must submit ideas that can bridge the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions. However, what has happened so far is that the Americans have submitted ideas that made the gap wider. To give an example, it gave Israel the right to lay a claim of sovereignty over the occupied territories. Such an act would undermine UN Security Council Resolution 242 and turn these occupied territories—according to the document submitted by the United States—into disputed territories. This represented a great danger to which all the Arab parties, not only the Palestinians, were alert. The Arab parties, including Egypt, which is playing a major role, protested these errors in the U.S. document.

[Al-Jundi] In your capacity as deputy chief of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks: We have read statements made by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian in which he noted that the tone of optimism in the peace talks is higher than the note of pessimism and that the talks are better and more serious than what they are said to be. As a negotiator, is this your feeling at the negotiating table with the Israeli side and what is your comment on the U.S. official's remarks?

['Urayqat] My comment is that perhaps they are too optimistic. However, the issue cannot be judged either by optimism or pessimism, but by the seriousness and realism of the ideas proposed at the negotiating table as well as by the mechanism to bridge the gap, which the full partner must provide. For the thousandth time we as Palestinians say that among all parties, we are the party most eager to preserve the peace process. It is our lands that are under occupation and our people who are suffering more than anybody else. What is wrong is that the negotiations, due to Israel's attitude, are proceeding in a manner by which Israel is trying to impose certain positions, on the premise that Israel is the strongest party and the one occupying the territories. On several occasions, Israel has acted as if it is a state above the law. For our part, we addressed the cosponsors and told them that Israel's policies, such as the continuation of the settlement-building, violations of human rights, seizure of lands, and repeated acts of aggression against south Lebanon will weaken the credibility of the peace process and turn the region into one governed by the law of the jungle, not one in which attempts are under way to establish peace through negotiations according to international legality. This is the real problem facing the peace process. It is high time for the United States to act

as a full partner; that is; to refrain from dealing with Israel as a state above the law.

[Al-Jundi] A confederation with Jordan is a topic under discussion at the moment among the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and the other parties concerned with the peace process. President 'Arafat has indicated that there are certain arrangements with Jordan regarding this issue. What can you add to this?

['Urayqat] I would like to point out that what is taking place now between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides involves coordination over issues that require coordination in a bid to have a uffified position vis-a-vis Israel. This is particularly true in issues where there are things in common, such as the water, borders, Jerusalem, legal affairs, and other political and economic issues. The committees set up between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides are now working to find common ground to face the Israeli position on these issues. As for the idea of confederation, it is not new. As you know, the Palestine National Council in 1983 adopted a resolution calling for confederation with Jordan subject to th voluntary will of the two peoples. There is a question now 20 months into the negotiations: Has it been proven that the interim period no longer serves any purpose and that it may even complicate things further? Could the Jordanian and Palestinian sides proceed toward finally opting for a confederation in the hope of eliminating the interim period and moving directly into negotiations about a final stage? In my view, I think it is a realistic option. When Mr. Ross was a ed about this issue during his recent visit to the region, he said he would have to examine the matter before giving an answer, which was neither a yes or no. We are a o awaiting a reply to this question.

[Al-Jundi] In the end of this dialogue, we thank Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab- Israeli peace talks, who is on the line with us from Jerusalem. Thank you very much, Dr. 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] You are most welcome.

Al-Husayni on 'Abd-al-Shafi, Peace Process

TA2707171693 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 26 Jul 93 pp 12, 11

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the negotiating delegation, by Isma'il 'Ajwah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajwah] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's recent statements have aroused a lot of reaction and questions. What is your comment on those statements, which have focused on a collective leadership and the financial aspect?

[Al-Husayni] The PLO is facing a financial crisis that began before the Gulf crisis, but the PLO's crisis began to intensify and escalate with the start of the Gulf one when, above all, the PLO's financial revenues from Palestinians in the Gulf states were halted. At the same time, the aid provided by Arab states was also halted. This led to a stifling financial crisis. By exploiting this crisis, some countries connected to the negotiating process are trying to exert peessure on us to obtain political concessions. Despite the fact that the PLO succeeded in breaking the political siege by this negotiating process, so far we have not witnessed a financial or economic breakthrough. Every day, however, we hear that we are on the verge of a breakthrough, especially because some Gulf states have contacted us to inform us that a financial and economic breakthrough in the occupied territories is imminent. If this is true, then this financial crisis, which is harming everyone, is on its way to being resolved.

As for Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's statements, which he raised with regard to the management of affairs and arrangement of the intc:nal Palestinian house, yes, we need to arrange the internal Palestinian house, but I wish that this issue had been raised before or after the current stage when, I hope, we will be in better political shape and not under political and financial pressure. Some countries are trying to exert pressure on us in a bid to create a rift between the inside and outside or to downplay the PLO's role. Perhaps some people imagined that because of those statements, more pressure might bear fruit and, consequently, the PLO would enter into a stage of internal conflicts. I am confident that this was not Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's intention or objective, but sometimes a step taken in goodwill by a certain party might be exploited by other parties in an unsound manner. For this reason, we were eager that those issues be discussed internally within Palestinian institutions and inside the Palestinian house so that they would not be misunderstood or inflated by the foreign news media. [passage omitted]

['Ajwah] Don't Dr. Haydar's recent statements have other objectives in view of the fact that elections might be held in the occupied territories?

[Al-Husayni] No, I don't believe so. Even if I disagree with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi about the timing, his proposal is a stance of conscience. His intentions are sincere regardless of whether he is right or wrong. The intentions are sound even if I disagree with him here and there about the timing and the analysis. This is the truth.

['Ajwah] It is apparent that the peace process is being handled by three persons: 'Arafat, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], and al-Husayni. Is there an intention to change the delegation's makeup?

[Al-Husayni] Let me correct this impression. The peace process is being managed by the PLO and its Executive Committee, led by Yasir 'Arafat. There is a kitchen cabinet that steers the peace process, but it does not discuss the delegation's makeup. The PLO's legitimate leadership, represented by the Executive Committee under Yasir 'Arafat's leadership is the one that decides.

['Ajwah] Reports talked about the intention to transfer the PLO's headquarters from Tunis.

[Al-Husayni] I don't believe there is such an intention. At least for my part, I did not see, hear, or feel such talk.

['Ajwah] Recently you have held official talks in Amman. Where is confederation in the bilateral meetings?

[Al-Husayni] A long time ago, since 1982, a decision was made on the need to reach a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation in the future. Immediately before the Madrid Conference, a Palestinian-Jordanian agreement was reached on the need to create a perception for the confederation, which would be signed upon establishment of the Palestinian state. However, no ongoing practical or effective steps have been taken over this issue. Consequently, we reached the conclusion that the rules and bases of this issue, and the rights and obligations of each party must be spelled out. I believe that we were sincere when we asked to discuss the bases of this concept. I think the time has come to study those bases and formulate the perceptions for this confederation. However, we should leave implementation of confederation itself until after independence and in accordance with the wish of the two peoples.

['Ajwah] Does the call for confederation now seek to cover up the deadlock in the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] Absolutely not. There is no connection between them. Rather, we are preparing so that if matters move ahead quickly we will not be taken by surprise and so that confederation will not be unclear in our minds. [passage omitted]

['Ajwah] Where is the peace process? And can Warren Christopher succeed in removing the existing obstacles?

[Al-Husayni] Removing obstacles is now the responsibility of the United States and Israel, not the Palestinians. We adhere to the provisions and rules of this negotiating process and Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate that the territories, including Jerusalem, are occupied. Our battle in the 10th round was over Jerusalem, and this remains our battle. If any party imagines that it is possible to reach any understanding or agreement separate from the issue of Jerusalem, it is mistaken and dreaming.

The United States fully realizes the importance of finding a peaceful solution in the region and also the importance of the Palestinian position. Success will lead to stability in the region and vice versa. We will not sign any agreement unless the peace process achieves our goals, epitomized by an end to occupation in all the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, and establishment of an independent state in which our people exercise their right to self-determination and the choice of their future. We will not sign unless these things are realized and unless the interim stage serves as a process and preparation for transferring to the final stage, as perceived by us. We are not ready to accept a solution contrary to this.

['Ajwah] Do you think the possibility of halting or suspending the talks is relevant?

[Al-Husayni] We can stop the talks at any moment, but at the same time if we want to stop the talks it should be for the sake of achieving a specific goal. If this goal is not achieved by halting the talks, then there is no reason to do so. Halting the talks means halting the current peace process and searching for new means. The negotiating process will not be halted as long as we believe there is room for action by which we can obtain specific results. Another thing that can be said is that in this negotiating process no one can oblige us to sign anything against our will. Consequently, our presence at the negotiating table under no circumstances harms the main cause. What can substantially harm the Palestinian cause is if all the Palestinian people become negotiators and leave the groundwork. The ground must be developed and made ready to respond to all challenges. On the basis of this perception, negotiations should continue along with the groundwork, otherwise we will definitely be facing a real problem.

['Ajwah] There is increasing talk about contacts between the PLO and Israel. All the leaders are talking about this issue and competing among themselves. Is this not a stampede?

[Al-Husayni] There is no stampede. Attempts are being made by many parties, including Western and Israeli parties, to foster this link between the PLO and Israel. At a certain period it was difficult for such a process to be accepted in the Palestinian and Israeli streets. Now there is more acceptance. Some, whether on the Israeli or Palestinian side, believe that raising this issue repeatedly might prepare the Israeli street to accept this idea. Others believe that talking about this issue will not help to change or activate the Palestinians. In many cases, journalists having a certain objective ask a specific question in order to draw a specific conclusion, which they attribute to the interlocutor. Then they relay this message to another personality in order to obtain a specific answer. Consequently, things become more complicated. I prefer to be more reserved over this issue not because we are or claim to be not in favor of it, but in order to obtain better results. [passage omitted]

Habash Arrives in Amman After Meeting Fatah in Tunis

JN2807103093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], arrived in Amman yesterday evening following a working visit to the Palestinian headquarters in Tunis.

Palestinian sources in Amman said that important meetings were held there between the Fatah and PFLP leaders following the conclusion of the meetings of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and Central Committee. The

Fatah and PFLP meetings aim d at assessing results of the settlement talks, the developments in the U.S. position, and its complete bias toward Israel and its tactics vis-a- vis the peace process.

The Palestinian sources told AL-DUSTUR that what has been achieved between the Fatah and PFLP leaders will produce political moves on the Palestinian level to restore internal harmony within the PLO ranks through expediting the comprehensive dialogue. The sources added that the two factions' meeting will also produce moves on the Arab level in order to create a larger understanding of the Palestinian position opposing the American and Israeli plans to resolve the Palestine question.

Al-Khatib: Hamas Agrees to Deportees' Gradual Return

PM2707075493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 93 p 4

[Ilyas Nasrallah report: "Al-Khatib: Hamas Agrees to Deportees' Gradual Return"]

[Text] London—Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has revealed that the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" has agreed to the gradual return of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees and asked the PLO to mediate with the U.S. Administration for the sake of the return of 70 sick deportees.

Al-Khatib, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his house in occupied Ramallah, said that, on that basis, the Palestinian delegation submitted a request in this connection to Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace talks, during the first meeting held with him in Jerusalem this month.

Al-Khatib, who participated in the first meeting with Ross and boycotted the other two meetings held also in Jerusalem in protest at the Palestinian side's backtracking on its rejection of the U.S. document on the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, pointed out that "the Palestinian request spoke of a gradual return, to include in the first stage 120 deportees whose return was previously agreed, plus 70 sick deportees."

It is worth noting that President Clinton's administration intervened after the Security Council's adoption of the resolution stipulating that all the 405 deportees be returned at once. It persuaded the Yitzhaq Rabin government to return the deportees gradually—something which both the PLO and Hamas rejected.

Al-Khatib has frozen his participation in the peace negotiations since the eighth round in protest at Israel's failure to agree to implement the Security Council resolution concerning the deportees.

It is worth mentioning that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat announced the PLO's receipt of a U.S. promise regarding the return of 70 sick Marj al-Zuhur deportees.

Egypt

Musa: Israel Should Halt Action in Lebanon

NC2707143593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt's position on the Israeli acts of aggression against south Lebanon is to demand an immediate halt to these acts of aggression, which negatively affect the peace process.

Speaking to reporters here today, Musa said that the peace process at this stage requires cooperation from all parties to give peace a chance. He called for concentrating on the positive results that can be attained through a peaceful settlement and on the basis of the land-for-peace principle. He emphasized that the Egyptian position can be summed up in the fact that preserving Lebanon's sovereignty is essential and that aggression against it is unacceptable. Proceeding from this premise, he added, Egypt continues its contacts with all parties to achieve a halt in the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon.

Musa pointed out that as part of Egypt's contacts with all parties regarding the situation in south Lebanon, he had telephoned Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and called for ending the Israeli military operations in Lebanon. The foreign minister added that he had telephoned Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who later telephoned him to brief him on the latest developments in south Lebanon.

Asked if the Egyptian contacts have led to specific results, Musa said that the contacts are still in progress and that contacts are under way within the United Nations as well as with a number of parties interested in the developments in south Lebanon.

On the results of the Egyptian-Sudanese round of talks held this morning in Cairo, Musa noted that there are points of agreement and points of difference. He added that a committee had been established to study these topics, noting the Egyptian-Sudanese talks will be resumed at the ministerial level this evening. [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1337 GMT on 27 July adds: "A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the technical committee emanating from the Egyptian-Sudanese talks comprises Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haqq, Egypt's ambassador to Sudan; 'Izz-al-Din Hamid, Sudan's ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Muhab Muqbil, Egyptian assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs; Ambassador Wajih Hanafi, from the Egyptian foreign minister's bureau, and a number of specialists from both sides."]

Asked about the date of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Egypt, Musa said that it will take place on time. He added: We have no information indicating that it has been canceled or postponed. He added that Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, will arrive in Cairo Saturday [31 July] morning; that is, approximately 12 hours before Christopher's arrival in Cairo.

Telephones Lebanon's Buwayz

NC2707180693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa telephoned Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this evening to consult on the diplomatic contacts Egypt is holding to end the Israeli aggressive action against Lebanon. This is the third telephone conversation between the two ministers in the past two days.

Parliamentary Committee Condemns Israel's Attacks

NC2707134393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—The Arab Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly has expressed regret at the Israeli acts of aggression against south Lebanon and strongly condemned Israel's hostile acts, tyranny, and brutality, which constitute a clear violation of norms and international laws and charters.

In a statement today, the committee emphasized that these ferocious attacks on the part of Israel primarily seek to strike at the heart of the peace efforts, a few days before the scheduled tour of the U.S. secretary of state in the region, which seeks to end the stalemate in the peace talks. The statement called on Israel to put an immediate end to these onslaughts, which serve no purpose other than to destroy any bridges that could lead to peace. The statement urged the United Nations and the world countries, particularly the major states, to adopt the necessary measures and put pressure on Israel to refrain from launching its raids and speed up the implementation of Resolution 425, which requires Israel to pull out its troops from south Lebanon.

Papers Denounce Israel's Offensive in Lebanon

NC2807082093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Several Cairo papers today carry commentaries denouncing Israel's attacks against Lebanon. The attacks, coming on the eve of a regional tour by the U.S. secretary of state, will have grave consequences, the papers say.

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that Israel has revealed its true intentions regarding peace by putting its planes and tanks into action against Lebanon.

The paper warns that violence breeds violence. Israel could have eliminated the problem of resistance in the so-called security strip in Lebanon simply by complying with international norms. AL- JUMHURIYAH says

Israel should have been discussing the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and the establishment of neighborly relations with the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks. The paper says that Israel should halt military operations, withdraw from south Lebanon, and promote a proper climate for negotiations.

AL-AHRAM warns Israel that the carrot-and-stick policy must not be used with the Arab participants in the negotiations. War does not resolve anything; it only complicates matters. What has been accomplished at the negotiating table in a year has been lost in an hour of cannon shelling, AL-AHRAM writes.

AL-AHRAM notes that the Israeli offensive on Lebanese soil involved an attack on Syrian Army positions in al-Biqa' Valley. This, the paper writes, seems to contradict the assumption that the Israeli operation is in response to the intermittent skirmishes involving Hizballah and the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army.

AL-AHRAM wonders if the Israeli Government truly wants peace or prefers to revive the atmosphere of war that has haunted the two sides for more than 45 years.

A third Cairo daily, AL-AKHBAR, writes that the secret behind the criminal abandon with which Israel has conducted itself in south Lebanon lies in its knowledge that certain quarters are backing it in its blatant disregard for all international resolutions. This sorry state of affairs will continue until there is an awakening in the conscience of those people who claim to be responsible for protecting the safety and dignity of all nations at the same time as maintaining close ties with Israel.

Talks With Sudan Conclude; Press Communique Issued

NC2707204193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic GMT 93

[Text] The fourth round of Egyptian-Sudanese talks, headed by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, concluded this evening. During the session, the two sides continued their discussion of the outstanding issues, including measures to clear the atmosphere between the two countries, which has been clouded recently, confidence-building measures, and laying down new foundations for the Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that the talks had been held in a frank atmosphere and touched on all the existing problems as well as overall bilateral relations. The talks sought to underline the historic relationship between the two countries and examine all the existing problems, he noted. He added that the two sides agreed to resume the meetings as soon as possible.

A press communique was issued at the conclusion of the Egyptian-Sudanese talks. It stated that at the instructions of Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and 'Umar al-Bashir following their Cairo meeting on 29 June 1993, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih held a series of meetings between 25 and 27 July to discuss ways for consolidating relations between the two countries and finding a comprehensive and practical solution for all the problems that blemished these relations. The talks were conducted in a fraternal and frank atmosphere in line with the special relations between the two sisterly countries and the positive atmosphere that has prevailed between them since the summit meeting.

The two sides stressed the need to build bridges of confidence and safeguard national interests, security, and stability in the two countries. Each side expressed its views on the various issues under discussion and the two sides exchanged specific proposals that will be examined by both.

The two sides voiced their eagerness to continue the dialogue to serve their common interests and agreed to resume these talks as soon as possible. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was invited to visit Sudan to hold the coming round of talks in Khartoum.

Ministers Comment on Talks

NC2707210793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1938 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—At the end of the Egyptian-Sudanese talks this evening, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that the talks were held in a frank atmosphere. The discussion focused on the current problems and the general atmosphere of bilateral relations and sought to underline the historic relations and examine the various outstanding obstacles, he noted. He added that it had been agreed to resume the talks as soon as possible and that a number of ideas and proposals were made and will be studied by the two parties before the next meeting. The foreign minister hoped the two parties will succeed in putting the bilateral relations on the right course and overcoming the difficulties that caused tension in relations.

Musa noted that the recent meeting held between Presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Umar al-Bashir in Cairo on the sideline of the African summit provided the basis for holding these meetings.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih thanked Egypt and noted the two countries' common interest in restoring the distinguished relations that existed between them.

Asked about Sudan's position on terrorism, Abu-Salih said that Sudan believes that terrorism as a phenomenon must be eliminated from this region, which is one of oldest parts of the world and abhors any barbaric, terrorist, or unlawful acts.

On the conditions of Egyptians living in Sudan, Abu-Salih said they are living there in peace and security.

On whether the positive atmosphere of the talks will reflect on Sudan's decision to close the Egyptian schools and consulates in Sudan, Abu-Salih said the talks addressed bilateral relations and the standards for allowing relations between the two countries to take their course and preventing any kind of tension that might make relations deteriorate.

He clarified that ideas and proposals were presented that will be studied and discussed so that what both countries aspire to can be realized in future meetings.

On the awaited meeting between Presidents Mubarak and al-Bashir, Abu-Salih clarified that 'Amr Musa and himself have been asked by the two presidents to prepare final ideas on how to improve relations. These ideas will be presented to the two presidents.

He affirmed that during the talks there was much progress but that some issues need to be discussed further.

Prosecutor Demands Death Sentence for 32 Defendants

NC2707210893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—The Military Prosecution has demanded the death sentence for the defendants in the case of robberies of jewelry shops. The defendants belong to the al-Shawqiyun Organization, an offshoot of the al-Jihad Organization. The prosecution said the defendants, who sanctioned the bloodletting and plundering of Muslims and non-Muslims alike and who do not have any ideology and use religion as a tool, are mere robbers who allowed themselves to plunder other people's property.

The Higher Military Court held a session today presided over by Major General 'Ali Kamal Hamzah to listen to the Public Military Prosecutor's statement in the case of the al-Shawqiyun Organization, in which 32 defendants are involved. Four of the defendants are still at large.

Speaking at the beginning of the session. Deputy Military Prosecutor Brigadier General 'Ali Bibars noted that members of this group have turned themselves into imams, judges, and leaders and gave themselves the right to shed the blood and plunder the property of people. They committed murders and robberies and destroyed others' property under the name of Islam, which has nothing to do with what they did.

Libya

International Reaction to Israeli Attacks Criticized

LD2707151793 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Jul 93

[From the "Today's Report" program]

[Excerpts] While the Security Council postponed its consultation session to discuss Lebanon's call for an urgent meeting to discuss the Zionist attacks, the Zionist air, land, and sea attacks continued for the third consecutive day on the Arab Lebanese towns and villages. The Zionist planes resumed their raids last night and this morning on the residential areas in south Lebanon accompanied by heavy artillery bombardment on Nabatiyeh and the surrounding villages. [passage omitted]

This new aggression, which continued with brutality over three consecutive days, during which towns and villages inhabited by women, children, and old people have been pounded within the earshot and before the eyes of the world and its international organizations, clearly reveals the double standard in dealing with international issues. International organizations, with their various councils, have failed to take action to force the Zionist occupiers to implement more than 50 resolutions, among them Resolution 425, which calls on the Zionists to immediately withdraw from south Lebanon. This encourages the Zionists to persist in their aggression and to encroach upon the Arab nation.

Paper on 'Withdrawal' of Jallud From Political Scene

JN2807082393 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 26 Jul-1 Aug 93 pp 12-17

[By Kabi Tubrani]

[Excerpts] After the Libyan pilgrims' visit to Jerusalem and al-Aqsa Mosque, Western officials and some observers have placed Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's movements under the microscope. They consider this step a great transformation and a turning point in the policy the colonel has adopted toward Israel ever since he came to power on 1 September 1969. They see it as the last of his strategic attempts to open a new dialogue with the United States in order to lift the international embargo on his country, an embargo that has started to make itself felt on all official and popular levels.

This has also led to the withdrawal from the scene—and some say resignation—of the number two man in Libya, Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud. He has preferred confinement in his house over political suicide, which is being sought by the Libyan leader. He wanted to realize his dream, if allowed to do so, of tdaveling to the Canary Islands, where he owns a house, and to live there with his family now that "the revolution has lost its meaning, structure, and pillars," as he told one of AL-WASAT's sources. Some say the colonel has sent him on compulsory leave to Greece, as he used to do in the past.

Apparently, al-Qadhdhafi does not like the winds of change that have been blowing against his policy. There is a fierce Western—particularly a U.S.—attempt to

isolate, uproot, and replace him before any steps are made to lift the embargo against the Jamahiriyah and to deal with it.

Rumors are spreading among average Libyans that the Libyan people will witness an extraordinary event. Certain officials even put the date of this event as 15 August. They say this date, on which the General People's Congress will convene, will be the first turning point in the country's history since the 1 September revolution, because on that date, al-Qadhdhafi, along with his comrades in the Revolution Command Council, will relinquish all of their powers. This will be done in an emotional speech that will maintain—in the minds of Libyans who have lived through the Jamahiriyah era and the Third World Theory—his image as the revolutionary colonel, the transformer of human life, and the trustee of Arab nationalism.

Those who are close to the Libyan leader believe their leader will carve a niche in history for himself, even when he falls or quits.

This step seems almost impossible. But those who know the mercurial character of al-Qadhdhafi and his mysterious, blurred, contradictory, and sudden moves say he is still capable of realizing personal triumphs.

All those who closely know Libya and who have followed up al-Qadhdhafi's dramatic method of tackling his recent crisis resulting from the international embargo, ask: Why will this take place on 15 August?

The international sanctions imposed on Libya will be reviewed in mid-August, and freezing Libyan assets and imposing an oil embargo would also be included in the sanctions. AL-WASAT sources, which have access to Libyan internal affairs, say that mid-August is also the date of "accountability" at the General People's Congress following the exacerbation of differences on the methods of dealing with the Lockerbie crisis and what stemmed from it. A Libyan official, who opposes al-Qadhdhafi's approach in dealing with the international embargo, said: That will be zero hour for the explosion of all previous accumulations and for taking the regime to serious account.

The Libyan official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the Libyan leader concentrated all his efforts last year, "the year of embargo," on acquitting himself personally of the charge of terrorism, because if those behind the Pan-Am aircraft blast are convicted they will certainly say that they received orders from him [al-Qadhdhafi] personally to carry out the operation.

Informed sources inside Libya say that after his failure to open any dialogue with the United States before and after "his openness toward Israel through the pilgrims," al-Qadhdhafi spent days and nights discussing scenarios for his departure from al-'Aziziyah—his Tripoli headquarters—with his close aides, who ruled and controlled the country over the recent years. Each meeting produced a certain scenario, which—when implemented—achieved no progress. Al-Qadhdhafi did not care about the Libyan people's reaction to all that is taking place. Al-Qadhdhafi's main concern is to end the international problem and the crises of the Lockerbie plane and the French plane that exploded over Nigeria.

As for the international embargo, imposed by the United Nations with Western support, confused the Libyan leadership, its effects also succeeded in undermining the Libyan economy. Inflation doubled tens of times, and the Libyan dinar was devalued. As a result, prices of food, clothes, and basic commodities became very high, and some of these commodities even became scarce. In addition unemployment rose sharply following the closure of the majority of factories and shops as a result of the shortage of basic materials. This has made matters worse for al-Qadhdhafi and produced a kind of popular resentment and anger which began to burn like fire brand under ashes waiting for zero hour.

In recent days, sources who are close to al-Qadhdhafi and aware of what is going on in the suburbs of Tripoli and other Libyan cities say that a scenario has been worked out to announce his resignation at the next Congress session and thus forestall any negative results of any delay. The situation has become explosive on the level of both officials and people. He will thus hit two birds with one stone.

First: He will step down to pave the way for opening a new page in his country's relations with the West, and subsequently with the whole world.

Second: He will name his successor to lead the country during the next stage in order to prevent any future retaliation [against him]. AL-WASAT sources say it is likely that al-Qadhdhafi will propose the formation a transitional council comprising members who are loyal to him and who would not cause any sensitivities abroad during the process of lifting the international sanctions and Libya's openness to the world. The following five persons are the candidates:

- Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Umar al-Muntasir, a pragmatic character close to the Libyan people. He contributed much to his country on the level of economy and foreign relations.
- General Education Secretary Dr. al-Madani Abu-al-Tuwayrat, who has left his mark on educational restructuring programs in recent years.
- 'Ali Mariya, a former official in charge of the foreign media. He is well known to Arab and foreign newsmen. He is active in foreign relations, especially with the international news media.
- 'Ali al-Hudayri [name as published], a diplomat and a former representative to the United Nations, an ambassador in Paris and a well-known figure in international forums.
- Rajab Budabbus, a French Sorbonne University graduate in philosophy and a conservative academic who worked as a secretary of culture.

The important question here is: What will happen in Libya if al-Qadhdhafi goes and a transitional council assumes power? Western sources following what is going on in Libya expressed concern to AL-WASAT about the proposed scenario because they believe it may lead to a civil war between tribes, and Libya may turn into an arena of conflicts and liquidations. It may also turn into a group of mini-states, especially since the arid and unpopulated areas separate the Libyan regions where tribes or other groups live. An official Libyan source, however, expressed surprise at such prospect and said: "The Libyan administration can control the situation under all circumstances."

Regardless of the possibilities, information obtained by AL-WASAT affirms that preparations are underway to bring the situation under control and prevent leakage of information about the ongoing developments and about what might happen during the General People's Congress session next month. In light of this, so far, no invitations have been addressed to attend the Congress session or the 1 September—the national day—celebrations as happens every year. The few Libyan leaders with access to al-Qadhdhafi's scenario, propose alternative names for the transitional council proposed by al-Qadhdhafi. They believe that the current stage needs new faces not used by the regime in its previous "rounds." Those leaders, the majority of whom are academics who received their education in the West and who have economic and cultural ties with the West, are afraid of inheriting "the difficult legacy" of the present regime, which adopted the policy of burning bridges and severing contacts with the world. This, they believe, needs immense efforts and huge potentials to straighten out matters. In other words, Libya needs a complete rehabilitation process because the present regime canceled all institutional and basic criteria under the pretext of "the people's authority" and created problems that need years, maybe decades, to be resolved. [passage omitted]

We can conclude by saying that al-Qadhdhafi is now studying all possibilities to emerge from the big impasse. However, this is the first time since his assumption of power that he thinks of stepping down in his own way and in accordance with a scenario he prepared together with his close aides. He thinks of stepping down in this way before the popular anger, resulting from the international embargo on his country, carries out a scenario of another kind and ousts him by force or coup, which might not be bloodless as in 1969.

AL-WASAT sources believe that al-Qadhdhafi might not celebrate the 24th anniversary of his 1 September revolution this year. Meanwhile, other sources say that the man of surprises is always capable of new surprises.

Morocco

Foreign Ministry 'Strongly Condemns' Israeli Attack on Lebanon

LD2707220093 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] As we mentioned at the beginning of this bulletin, the Israeli acts of aggression continue on southern Lebanon.

Following these aggressions, the spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has made the following statement:

The Moroccan Kingdom follows with profound concern the escalation of events currently experienced by Lebanon following the large-scale attacks by the Israeli Army on the entire Lebanese territory for the last three days, which have left a large number of victims—the majority of whom were innocent civilians—and have destroyed buildings and property.

The Moroccan Kingdom, which is linked to fraternal Lebanon by strong and special bonds, strongly condemns these Israeli violations of fraternal Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, for which Israel has mobilized huge forces. This is a matter that raises a number of questions about the real objectives behind it. It is noticeable that this escalation came at a time when Lebanon has entered a new era of stability and safety, thanks to the efforts of the tripartite higher committee on Lebanon, of which Morocco was a member. It has also come at a time when hopes had been revived for the reconstruction of Lebanon and a return to its previous condition.

Furthermore, this Israeli escalation is bound, no doubt, to negatively effect the dynamics of peace that have recently been known in the Middle East and on which the peoples of the region have begun to pin a lot of their hopes to extract the region from the era of confrontation and struggle to a new era in which the Arab peoples will recover their legitimate rights.

The Moroccan Kingdom, which affirms on this occasion its support of and solidarity with fraternal Lebanon, its government, and people, calls for the cessation of this aggression on the territory of a fraternal Arab country. It also affirms its belief that the door will remain open for a repetition of such aggressions unless international legitimacy is respected and the entire relevant resolutions of the United Nations are implemented. This is especially true of UN Security Council Resolution No. 425, which calls on Israel to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the south of Lebanon—and also the Council's other resolutions concerning the Middle East issue. If the international community fails to put an end to such aggressions, it will inevitably lead to the abortion of the peace process in the region.

This was the text of the statement read by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

National Commission on Elections To Resume Meetings

LD2707125893 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Rabat, July 27 (MAP)—King Hassan II has assented to the resuming of meetings of the National Commission supervising the elections, reports the Moroccan media.

The king's decision was reported Monday [26 July] by the sovereign's advisor and chairman of the commission Ahmed Redha Guedira to a delegation representing the Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Party for Progress and Socialism and the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action.

The four parties forming the "democratic bloc" have expressed wish that the commission carries on its meetings until the one remaining third of members of the parliament is elected at the indirect suffrage next September 17.

Sudan

Ministry Official Condemns Israeli Raids

EA2707205593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Sudan has severely condemned Israel's aggression against southern Lebanon, which has claimed tens of innocent victims. Ambassador Qutb al-Mahdi, acting first secretary of the Foreign Ministry, speaking at the Ministry's office today, described the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon as criminal and reckless. He called on the United Nations and the UN Security Council to adopt decisive resolutions against this iniquitous aggression.

His Excellency al-Mahdi referred to the meeting between the Sudanese and Egyptian foreign ministers currently being held in Cairo, saying that its results will pave the way for a summit between the presidents of the two countries. He said that the session held yesterday evening dealt with three working papers concerning the basic principles governing Sudanese-Egyptian relations and steps to be taken to build confidence between the two sides, as well as the scope of cooperation between the two countries in the future.

Al-Mahdi went on to reiterate Sudan's rejection in total of reports carried by local and international media to the effect that the United States had called on Sudan to expel the Iranian ambassador from Khartoum. He said these reports were completely untrue.

U.S. Request for Deportation of Iranian Rejected

PM2707122093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jul 93 pp1, 4

[Hasan Sandarusi report: "Sudan Rejects U.S. Request for Deportation of Iranian Ambassador"]

[Text] Washington—Sources close to the talks held last Wednesday [21 July] between U.S. officials in charge of combatting terrorism and Sudanese officials have stated that the Sudanese rejected a U.S. request calling on Khartoum to deport Iranian Ambassador to Sudan Majid Kamal, maintaining that it was a matter of national sovereignty and was not negotiable.

The Americans accuse Kamal of directly participating in the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and of helping in the formation of Hizballah in southern Lebanon.

A Sudanese source has stated that "Sudan is a sovereign state, and others should not make requests that undermine its sovereignty. That is out of the question. We did not come here to discuss our sovereignty. There are U.S. ambassadors whose views we do not approve of but that is a matter of sovereignty and we cannot interfere in such matters."

The Sudanese source accused the United States of inconsistency in its policy on terrorism, noting its cooperation with Sudanese rebel leader John Garang. He said: "You know that the United States denies the Sudanese entry visas but it grants Garang an entry visa within 24 hours even though he is a terrorist. John Garang is the biggest terrorist in Sudan. We cannot understand that but they say that their sovereignty dictates the controls they apply."

Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, Sudanese planning minister and a prominent member of the Sudanese delegation in the negotiations with the southern rebels, has told AL-HAYAH that, at a meeting held at the U.S. State Department last Tuesday, he defended Sudan's record on terrorism. He declined to comment on the current controversy regarding the Iranian ambassador. He just said: "They requested some improvements. I will not add to that."

He also said: "We told them (the Americans) that we have no terrorism and that they should come to the country to see for themselves. We told them that history had seen many people put on trial unfairly and many years later people discovered that they were innocent." He said that "Sudan is innocent of the charge of harboring terrorists." In his view, "such matters should be

discussed by experts from both sides." He added: "There are many things which I do not know. I am not an expert on the subject. That is what I told them (the Americans). Such issues should be discussed with the departments concerned."

Dr. al-Hajj cast doubt on many of the published reports about Sudan's link with terrorism. He blamed misleading Egyptian reports which are widespread and read by U.S. Government and Congress officials.

He said: "We are completely innocent. All the charges are mostly based on Egyptian intelligence reports. I believe it would be unfair to try to incriminate us on the basis of Egyptian reports."

According to U.S. officials, the U.S. State Department is on the verge of deciding whether or not to include Sudan in the official list of states which support international terrorism. A final decision is expected within two weeks.

Bahrain

State Condemns Israeli 'Acts of Hostility' in Lebanon

JN2707141893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Manama, 27 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has voiced extreme concern about Israel's escalating military operation against Lebanon.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry issued a statement today condemning the continuing acts of hostility and the threats against an Arab member of the United Nations.

The source appealed to the United Nations, the Security Council, and the international community to quickly intervene and end these acts of hostility and to force Israel to comply with the resolutions of the international legitimacy, especially Security Council Resolution 425.

Following is the text of the statement by the Bahraini Foreign Ministry spokesman:

The State of Bahrain has been following the escalating Israeli military operations against Lebanon with extreme concern. While condemning these continued acts of hostility and threats against an Arab UN member state, which, along with other fraternal Arab parties, is taking part in the current peace process to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region, the State of Bahrain appeals to the United Nations and the international community to quickly intervene and halt these acts of hostility and to force Israel to comply with the resolutions of the international legitimacy, particularly Security Council Resolution 425 urging Israel to totally withdraw from southern Lebanon and respect its borders and sovereignty in order to continue the peace march and to achieve security, stability, and peace in the Middle East.

Kuwait

'Strong Condemnation' of Israeli Actions Issued

LD2707113393 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Following the escalation of the Israeli military operations against fraternal Lebanon, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, the minister of information, has made the following statement:

Kuwait has been following with profound interest the news of the concentrated Israeli raids and the repeated military aggressions on fraternal Lebanon, which have led to the killing of scores and the injuring of hundreds of innocent civilians. While expressing its strong condemnation and denunciation of these repeated acts of aggression that threaten the security and sovereignty of fraternal Lebanon, Kuwait would like to reaffirm its solidarity with fraternal Lebanon. It stands by it and supports all the steps that Lebanon may take in order to preserve its safety and sovereignty. The State of Kuwait also calls for the necessity of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425 and appeals to the international community to exert pressure on Israel to compel it to comply with this resolution.

Kuwait is also of the view that Israel's escalation of its military campaigns at this particular time is but a flagrant attempt to hinder the peace talks and halt this march. Instructions have been issued to the delegate of the State of Kuwait at the United Nations to contact and cooperate with the delegate of the Lebanese Government and fraternal and friendly states in this connection.

Parliament Urges UN To End Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

LD2707173993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1640 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jul (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti National Assembly today called on the UN Security Council to take the initiative and urgently intervene. The Assembly urged the UN to use its power effectively and to pass firm resolutions with all its recognized available resources and means, in order to put an end to the savage Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and to put a decisive end to them.

In a statement issued today, the Kuwaiti National Assembly called on "the Arab and Islamic world to stand as one behind Lebanon and to strengthen support for it in its just cause. It should not be left as prey for the forces of injustice and aggression."

The statement also stressed that condemnation and denunciation must be coupled with measures and arrangements that deter Israel.

In its statement, the Assembly also strongly condemned the fierce Israeli campaign, which is fraught with very serious consequences reaching beyond southern Lebanon to the entire neighboring region.

Saudi Arabia

Press Condemns Israeli Air Strikes Against Lebanon

LD2707142693 Riyadh SPA in English 1248 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Riyadh, July 27, SPA—Saudi newspapers commented editorially today on the Israeli air strikes against Lebanon and described them as the biggest threat to peace process between the Arabs and the Israelis.

The Jeddah-based 'UKAZ said these strikes had come at a time, which is already witnessing rise in threatening statements by some Israeli top brass. The most deploring phase of this pent-up fury and false propaganda is that these same officials are at the same time, urging Arab negotiators to attend the peace talks.

The paper said such contradicting statements and attitudes proved that Israel was not showing any interest in peace and was trying to clip off wings of the peace structure.

'UKAZ said Israel, which was pretending to be a peaceful nation living among what it described as "war-loving Arab nations," (although Arab nations are for peace) had not made a single concession, so far, in the peace talks.

The paper said Israel wants a peace that is based on the occupation of others' land, a peace that is based on aggression on others and their rights.

The Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said Israel was occupying part of Lebanon and was refusing to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

The paper said Israel was escalating its military operations and was trying to justify this aggression by all means.

AL-BILAD said Israel's goals from the last operations was to achieve two things: First to press Lebanon into accepting unilateral peace according to Tel Aviv's terms and conditions and second to blow off the peace process under the pretext that Israel's security was coming under threat.

The paper urged the United Nations to put an end to the Israeli arrogance and to submit to the international will and resolutions.

Another Jeddah-based newspaper, AL-MADINAH commenting on the same subject said the Israeli intensive air raids on southern Lebanon were aimed at terminating the peace talks.

The paper said the current Israeli military operations were aimed at diverting the attention away from the core of the problem and intimidating Lebanon into accepting a unilateral peace as well as provoking Syria into responding to these attacks so as to launch an all out war and block the path of peace.

The paper noted the role of the world community represented by the United Nations in checking the Israeli arrogance.

Saudi Arabia's English newspapers, ARAB NEWS, SAUDI GAZETTE and RIYADH DAILY also condemned the Israeli raids on Lebanon.

"They are quite the worst for years, almost certainly since 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

"In no way, in international law, could the raids be justified as self-defense. They were an aggressive act of a proven aggressor, determined to protect his ill-gotten gains," said ARAB NEWS.

The paper reminded the Israeli prime minister of his last week's statement in which he and his advisors had affirmed that the only long-term Israeli political security could be ensured through political agreement with his neighbours not military muscle. "So why then did they send in the war planes and the helicopter gunships?" the paper asked.

"The only explanation is that it was designed specifically to appease Israeli public opinion," the paper said.

RIYADH DAILY described the latest attack by Israel on Lebanon as its most serious violation of Lebanese territory in recent times.

"This brutal assault is a serious challenge to the Arab world. it should not be taken lightly...

"Israel's latest offensive comes at a very inopportune time. Just when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is about to visit the region to break the dangerous deadlock in the Middle East talks, Israel has proved that it cares two hoots for the peace process and Washington's thinking on it. Such acts are deadly blows to permanently scuttle the peace process, reviving the old uncertainty and anxiety in the region."

Describing the latest Israeli offensive as a serious setback for the peace process, RIYADH DAILY urged Israel to make a strenuous attempt to revive sagging confidence among the Arabs in the peace process, requiring Tel Aviv to offer major concessions.

For its part, SAUDI GAZETTE affirmed that "logic and law do not exist in the dictionaries of Israel and its strategic allies."

The paper said Israel is greatest enemy of its own security and its policy of maintaining occupation of the lands of others is the actual cause of its worries. "And one of the worries its policy is causing is the future of Israeli generations," it added.

UN Begins Installing Cameras, Praises Iraqi Cooperation

NC2707122593 Paris AFP in English 1144 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 27 (AFP)—A U.N. team set out Tuesday [27 July] to set up surveillance cameras at two Iraqi missile test sites and praised the Iraqi authorities for their cooperation.

Bill Eckert, leader of the team of three Americans, said before leaving Baghdad for the sites around 60 kilometres (40 miles) south of the capital that they were making "very good progress."

The team had "good discussions and good answers" from the Iraqi authorities, he told reporters.

The installation of cameras at the al-Yawm al-'Azim and Rafah sites is the final step in the interim solution to a crisis that threatened to unleash U.S. air strikes on Iraq earlier this month.

Under an accord hammered out here last week, the cameras are to be installed but not activated, pending talks on long-term monitoring of Iraq's post-war military potential at the United Nations in New York.

Meanwhile, Maurizio Zifferero, Italian head of a U.N. nuclear arms team in Iraq on a routine mission, said his work was going well and the team would leave Wednesday.

35 Kg of Radioactive Fuel To Be Tranferred to Russia

JN2307182893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 JuL 93

[Text] Maurizio Zifferero, head of the UN inspection team, said upon his arrival in Baghdad today that approximately 35 kg of radioactive nuclear fuel, which Iraq agreed to get rid of, will be moved to Russia before next March.

France and Britain expressed readiness to recover the radioactive material at a cost of $20 million, to be paid by the Iraqis. Russia, however, expressed its interest in the issue and proposed to recover the radioactive fuel at a lower cost.

National Assembly Condemns Israeli Raid on Lebanon

JN2707155093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Statement issued by the Iraqi National Assembly on the "repeated Zionist aggressions against the Arab countries, particularly the new aggression against fraternal Lebanon"—on 27 July]

[Text] O Arab people everywhere. O free men of the world: Out of faith in our Arab nation's principles of unity and freedom and of building a united Arab society, pursuant to a pledge we have made since the outbreak of Arab Revolt to be faithful to our nation's principles and values and to protect its unity and its territorial integrity, proceeding from the historic responsibility shouldered by the representatives of the mujahid Iraqi people, and to be true to our pledge to safeguard the nation's right and Arab people everywhere, the National Assembly denounces and condemns the Zionist aggression against fraternal Lebanon and the continued interference in this independent Arab country's affairs. The Iraqi National Assembly urges the international community to denounce and to stop these repeated aggressions against Arab countries, particularly Lebanon.

O lofty Arab people: The aggressiveness of the Zionist entity has seen no limits since it was illegally established on Arab land, through cooperation and alliance with imperialism and colonialism. Western stands toward the recent aggression against Lebanon are characterized by carelessness and indifference to the subject as a humanitarian issue, and as an actual aggression employing military force against a UN member state. Where are the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and the international community on this aggression? Every sides' position is characterized by hesitation and weakness. They left the Zionist enemy practice the most hideous forms of terrorism against the Arab people in Palestine and Lebanon. Silence about this aggression exposes the false claims of the United States and its allies that they are the protectors of world states from aggression and terrorism.

It has become clear that the United States and the United Nations use double standards in dealing with all issues. This policy poses a permanent threat to world peace and to the stability of peoples and states, particularly Third World countries and the Arab homeland.

The Iraqi National Assembly denounces the position of the United Nations and the coalition member states toward the Zionist aggression against Lebanon. It calls on the United Nations to apply a balanced uniform policy toward all those who threaten world peace and security and carry out an aggression against any UN member state, in order to safeguard the principles of the UN Charter as well as the principles of right, justice, and fairness. They should apply this policy for the sake of building a stable world where justice and international law prevail, away from the policy of hegemony over the world, and to categorically reject the double standards policy.

The National Assembly calls on you to reject this hegemonistic policy and indifference to international issues, based on its belief in the unity of causes and problems in the world and the unity of stands toward them. It appeals to the freemen of the world to voice their rejection of the aggressiveness of the Zionist entity and its violation of all international charters. We call for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on southern

Lebanon, the security belt area, and on the Palestine question, for the sake of world stability and all sides' security.

Kurdish Families Said To Flee Autonomous Region

JN2707201993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—A number of Iraqi Kurdish families have evacuated their houses in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in northern Iraq and moved to al-Khalis District in the Diyala Governorate, 60 km north of Baghdad.

During a visit by an Iraqi party leader to their assembly area in al-Khalis District, a number of these families' members stressed that the tyranny, terrorism, and devious practices of the leaderships and cliques controlling the Autonomous Region have forced the Kurdish families to leave their areas in search of security, safety, and stability under the Iraqi flag and sovereignty.

The sons of these families told Mizhir Matni 'Awwad, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Ja'far al- Barzanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, that they are proud of and adhere to their Iraqi identity, the unity of their homeland, and to their struggling leadership under President Saddam Husayn.

It is worth noting that the elements of Barzani and Talabani and their henchmen in northern Iraq have turned the Kurdistan Region into a field for killing, terrorism, rape, and plundering. They have systematically planned to take all the rations and fuel allocated by the Iraqi Government for the northern governorates' citizens, just as it does for citizens in other governorates. They used to keep large quantities of these and sell the remaining part in the black market.

These elements have resorted to treasonous methods. They dismantled factories equipment and power generators and grids, and then smuggled them to Iran, sold them, and transferred their money to their accounts in foreign banks.

IDF Officers Review Lebanon Operation 27 Jul

TA2707193493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1804 GMT 27 Jul 93

[News conference with Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff; Major General Herzl Budinger, commander of the Air Force; and Brigadier General 'Ami Dror of the Intelligence Branch at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv—live]

[Excerpts] [Shahaq] I will briefly review developments over the last 24 hours, and other details you will hear from my colleagues. Since yesterday the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has gone ahead with its activities against Hizballah targets and other terrorist organizations in south Lebanon as planned. The bulk of these activities have been carried out by Air Force helicopter gunships and jet fighters and by the Northern Command's artillery and tanks. Since yesterday afternoon, there has been a massive flight of the population from the entire south. This exodus continued until this evening, and we estimate that most of the villages in the south have become almost totally empty. After an interval in the second half of last night, katyusha attacks continued by Hizballah and, apparently, by other Palestinian organization or organizations from this morning until this evening.

This morning we began directing rather massive fire into the villages abandoned by the population, villages occupied mainly by Hizballah men who use built-up areas to open fire at Israeli territory in spite of the warnings issued since Sunday [25 July]. As I said, since yesterday afternoon we have been witnessing the departure of the population from the south. I will now ask the commander of the Air Force to take it up from here.

[Budinger] Good evening. In the three days of the operation, the Air Force has carried out over 300 sorties, mainly throughout south Lebanon. Approximately 60 percent of these sorties were carried out by jet fighters, and the rest by helicopter gunships. In my opinion, the Air Force had two main goals in these raids. One goal was to severely hit Hizballah targets which we assumed were uninhabited. That is why in the first stage we chose isolated targets outside populated areas and raided them with jet fighters. Other targets inside the villages were raided by helicopter gunships. Although by using this method we did very little damage to them, I believe we did not hit civilians at all.

Later, when it emerged that the villages were being abandoned, as the deputy chief of staff observed, we began raiding targets, which had earlier been attacked by helicopter gunships, with jet fighters so as to hit them severely and destroy them. In my opinion, the goal of seriously destroying targets used by Hizballah men while avoiding hurting civilians to the extent possible was attained through the meticulous selection of the targets as I described earlier and the high level of accuracy demonstrated by the pilots.

The second goal was to reduce as much as possible the landing of katyusha rockets within the boundaries of the State of Israel. This is a more difficult goal, and took much longer to attain. Due to our persistent and determined action, it seems we have scored good results and the number of katyusha rockets landing on Israeli territory has gradually decreased and is currently very low.

Given the limitations and constraints of the area being attacked, mainly hitting targets in a densely-populated area, the sum total of the achievements scored by the Air Force is good and satisfactory. We seriously hit more than 150 targets of various types, infrastructure and other targets. Unfortunately, we also hit civilians but, fortunately, very few. As you know, we also hit several Syrians because of their location at the outset of the operation. Today, by mistake, we hit a UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] position, but, fortunately, only three soldiers were slightly injured. All in all, as commander of the Air Force, I am pleased with the results. [passage omitted]

[Dror] As a result of the IDF's activity in south Lebanon up to the present time, the local residents are in mass flight. Hizballah is trying, on the one hand, to continue firing katyushas at Israeli territory and at the security zone, and on the other hand they are sending more terrorists and weapons into south Lebanon from the northern part of the country. The Lebanese Government is aware of the situation but is afraid to act against Hizballah, probably because it lacks the Syrian backing which is necessary for such action. In our assessment, the number of people who have fled up to now is more than 150,000, but the numbers constantly change as the operation continues. The number of terrorist casualties that we can confirm, and we know that our information is still incomplete, is about 20 terrorists killed and another 20 injured. Hizballah has not pulled out of south Lebanon. On the contrary, there has been an increase in the number of terrorists in the south, and as the civilian population leaves, a higher percentage of the people in the area are Hizballah terrorists, as well as a few terrorists from the Palestinian organizations. Our main problem over the past two days was to differentiate between the civilians and the terrorists. The intelligence effort has indeed paid off, as you were told earlier by the Air Force commander. However, I must say that it was very difficult work. The terrorists took advantage of the civilian population on both sides of the border. It is clear why they did so on our side of the border, but they also held the Lebanese population hostage. They wanted to prevent us from acting against them because they realized that we would find it extremely difficult, and in some cases even impossible, to act against the terrorists when they mingle with the civilian population. We know that the local residents were unhappy about this in many places. We know that the population tried to demonstrate in several locations. We know for a fact that the local residents never received any support from either the Lebanese Government or Army. Thus, a situation developed where the terrorists were permitted to operate

freely, and the population, no matter how uncomfortable it felt, was powerless to do anything about the problem. It was important to Israel to separate between the local population and the terrorists. The picture cannot be complete without mentioning Syria and Iran, which stand behind Hizballah. Syria publicly encourages Hizballah, even though it is able to stop Hizballah, and we know this both from past experience and also because all of Hizballah's ammunition is shipped through Damascus. Hizballah's warehouses and training bases are situated under the Syrian umbrella, and when terrorists from Lebanon want to train in Iran, they travel through Damascus. The Syrians can stop this, but apparently they do not want to halt this phenomenon. The Iranians are very happy with this situation because they regard Hizballah as the vanguard of a much wider movement, and believe that the war against Israel is a sacred duty that Hizballah must continue to fulfill. Iran finds it is very convenient that Syria permits Hizballah to operate, and it is also very convenient for Tehran that the Lebanese Government is weak and does not confront Hizballah. As long as these two factors, the Lebanese and Syrian Governments, do nothing to stop this phenomenon, Hizballah and its Iranian supporters have no reason to halt their activity. We have no good explanation for the small number of katyusha rockets that was mentioned by the Air Force commander. We think it is a combination of the IDF's activity on the ground that disrupted their activity, and internal difficulties in Hizballah which surfaced during our operation. This does not mean that this will be the case tomorrow; however, in our estimate that is how things stand at the moment.

[BAMAHANE correspondent Hayim Raviv] What led to the change in Hizballah's policy with regard to the firing of katyusha rockets? A change which subsequently brought about the IDF's recent operation.

[Dror] We think that the change in Hizballah's position was a combination of several factors. We cannot, however, determine the relative weight of each separate factor. We know that Hizballah bought its security when the Lebanese Government disarmed the Amal movement and stopped the Lebanese Army from acting against Hizballah. The Hizballah then remained the only armed player in south Lebanon, and thus enjoyed freedom of action. On the other hand, the local residents failed to organize to prevent the Hizballah from operating from south Lebanon, although its activity was extremely disagreeable for them. The third element, strange as it may seem, is Syria, which is at the same time conducting political negotiations with us. Syria was interested in the continuation of Hizballah activity as part of Syria's concept of the negotiations, according to which negotiations should preferably be held while there is a small fire somewhere under Israel's feet. The combination of these three elements gave Hizballah far greater confidence in what it was doing, led it to believe that it could impose new rules on Israel, and eventually Hizballah become too trigger-happy in their use of katyushas against the State of Israel.

[Israel Television's Menashe Raz] I would like to ask Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq whether Hizballah is continuing to fire katyushas at the Galilee? It somehow seems that the mighty IDF, using a massive amount of firepower, is employing somewhat clumsy means against terrorists and guerrilla fighters.

[Shahaq] Hizballah is indeed a terrorist and guerrilla organization, and it is true as you heard earlier, that Hizballah chose to operate from inside the villages and among the civilian population. Just as we have taken action in the past, we will continue in the future to use all the means we deem appropriate. We believe that we are doing the right thing now, and we will see how this confrontation between us and Hizballah ends. Over the past few days, we have reached, and will continue to reach every destination we want. Let us wait and see.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Sheli Yehimovich] Right now the IDF is continuing to attack targets in Lebanon and Hizballah is still firing katyushas. What if the katyushas stop coming? Will the IDF terminate the operation in Lebanon, or does it have wider objectives?

[Shahaq] Stopping the katyusha attacks is definitely one of our goals, but not just for one or two weeks. In the past few months, we faced a situation where Hizballah decided when it would fire katyusha rockets, and it fired katyushas at the Galilee whenever it found the situation not to its liking. Prior to the resumption of the last round of peace talks in Washington, Hizballah sent a Palestinian gang belonging to an organization which was apparently set up by Hizballah to operate against Israeli territory. As you recall, Hizballah declared in the past that it would operate against the security zone, and when it wanted to operate against Israeli territory it used Palestinians to do that. That operation failed when they encountered IDF soldiers who killed some of the perpetrators. For some reason best known to it, Hizballah fired katyusha rockets at the Galilee that Friday night. We are clearly not prepared to go on living with such a reality, and Hizballah will have to understand that this kind of activity carries a price. When we conclude that Hizballah has gotten the message and behaves as we deem proper, then the operation will apparently end.

[Yehimovich] How will you know that it has gotten the message? What will be the sign?

[Shahaq] We will see the situation in the field, we will hear the assessment of intelligence elements, and we will analyze them. Also, perhaps Hizballah will decide to speak more clearly than it has so far.

[Israel Television's Menashe Raz] I would like to ask Air Force Commander Herzl Budinger: In your opinion, what objectives can be attained by air raids and artillery fire alone, without a ground attack?

[Budinger] As you probably know, it was clear from the outset that attacks alone will not make Hizballah change its modus operandi. The air raids and artillery fire on chosen targets, while keeping civilian casualties to a

minimum, were meant to create a situation whereby the population, after being subjected to constant fire and having a hard time, would reach the conclusion that at this point in time they would be well advised to get out of those areas. We would then intensify the raids, which had been limited until then because of the presence of civilians in those areas. As the population leaves, we hope stronger pressure will build up on the decision-makers in Lebanon and perhaps also in Syria to demand that Hizballah change its habit of firing at locations in Israel, thus attaining our goal indirectly. We are doing this only because we do not want a more massive and aggressive operation. What seems an excessively strong strike, actually is the mildest, fairest, and most appropriate strike possible under these conditions.

['AL HAMISHMAR's Yisra'el Zamir] Through our activities we are actually turning thousands of people into refugees [words indistinct] in a bid to bring pressure to bear on the Lebanese Government and, perhaps indirectly, on President al-Asad. [passage indistinct] When will a different type of operation be decided on and what will its nature be?

[Shahaq] For years terrorist organizations in Lebanon have been using the civilian population as a shield. There are two options, one being to fight the terrorists within the population which would suffer heavy casualties. We did not want that. We did not want a massive strike on Lebanese civilians. There are two, or perhaps more basic options. The central Lebanese Government could impose order in the area over which it claims sovereignty and its Army could assume responsibility for security and disarm Hizballah, as it did with all the other organizations. Then the civilian population would certainly not have to take action. However, this was not the case and time after time Hizballah took advantage of the villages, but not just them. A Sagger missile was fired yesterday, killing one of our boys, Gadi Su'ad, may he rest in peace. This missile was fired from an area very near a UN position. This is not the first time that Hizballah has used these positions to shield its activities. To be able to strike at Hizballah we had to separate it from the civilian population. Were the latter strong and enjoying the backing of somebody, such as the Lebanese Government, it would eject Hizballah from its midst. This not being the case, we were left with the second option.

A third option would have been to allow Hizballah to operate within the civilian population, to use it as a shield, and to continue its attacks on Israeli territory and at the security zone, and we were not prepared to accept that. Given this state of affairs, which I believe will come to an end, I assume Hizballah will realize that it cannot go on this way.

[Indistinct question by YEDI'OT AHARONOT'S Smadar Peri]

[Shahaq] I assume Christopher is not coming to this region to set up residence but to visit. Christopher will come and will go, but we, Hizballah, al-Hariri, and Lebanon will stay. The solution cannot be one that lasts one week. We tried long-term solutions in Lebanon. We realize the complexity of Lebanon's reality. Today, too, we cannot guarantee a long-term solution, but we can say that we will not tolerate or come to terms with the situation that existed in the last few months. People cannot live in the Galilee and have katyushas flying all over the place whenever it strikes Hizballah's fancy. As you said, many quarters will have to reassess their position. You mentioned Tehran and Damascus, and I will mention Lebanon. The Lebanese also have something to say about Lebanon's future. Other forces, Iran and the Syrians, are at work. If the Iranians want what is best for the inhabitants of Lebanon or south Lebanon, they will also have to reassess the situation and reach conclusions. Incidentally, today Hizballah is a political party represented in the Lebanese Parliament and a partner in the Lebanese Government. If it has any sense of responsibility, other than for the situation it has created, it will also have to reassess its position. I do not know what its decisions will be. When we know or understand its decisions better, we will decide our future actions in Lebanon accordingly. I can only hope and trust that this self-analysis will make them do the right thing for themselves, not for us. I think they should have what is best for them at heart, rather than what is best for us, and I believe that is what will be.

Operation Said Expanding

TA2707202893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] A senior Army officer said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been expanding its activities deep into south Lebanon and has already succeeded in reducing the number of katyusha attacks. He emphasized that the IDF intends to pursue this and other activities, and even to expand them, to make the opposite side realize that it must assume responsibility and take action to prevent the situation from reverting to what it was. He pointed out that the IDF has been advancing according to its plans, which are being executed in full. According to him, Hizballah still has katyusha launchers and rockets, but it may be having a hard time getting to them. He added that since the beginning of the operation the IDF has fired some 9,000 shells and shelled 54 villages. The officer's remarks were reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Katyushas Hit Western Galilee 28 Jul; One Injured

Early Morning Attack Reported

TA2807051393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Report by Menahem Horowitz from the north]

[Excerpt] The last katyushas landed in both the Galilee Panhandle and the western Galilee at about 0300 [0000

GMT] early this morning. There were no casualties, and little damage. The northern Israeli residents remain in air raid shelters. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 28 July adds "the northern border area was reported quiet this morning."]

Second Attack Reported

TA2807073193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Several katyushas landed in the western Galilee area about 30 minutes ago [approximately 0630 GMT]. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Woman Injured

TA2807151893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] A barrage of katyusha rockets was fired at a populated area of the Galilee panhandle approximately 30 minutes ago. Our correspondents Yo'av Aviv and Moti Amir report that one woman went into a state of shock and was slightly injured by glass splinters.

Baraq: Lebanon Operation 'Successful So Far'

TA2707172793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by Ehud Litman during a tour of the northern region "earlier today"—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] Sir, is the operation advancing according to plan?

[Baraq] We have been operating against Hizballah and Palestinians in Lebanon for three days. All in all, developments have been quite predictable. So far today we have fired some 5,000 rounds. The Air Force has raided more than 25 targets. About 15 katyusha rockets have been fired, some landing in Israeli territory and others in the security zone. Lebanese citizens have been moving en masse from their villages to areas north of the al-Awwali River. We consider Hizballah responsible for the attacks launched from these villages and consequently responsible for the fact that civilians, some of them innocent, are being forced to leave their homes.

[Litman] Will the fighting continue to be static or is a ground operation optional?

[Baraq] Listen to the airplanes flying overhead and the shells flying from this side to the other side of the border and you will realize that the fighting is not static. At this stage we are not moving ground forces beyond the security zone but, as we have said on more than one occasion, we do not rule out any means necessary to emerge victorious from this test.

[Litman] Sir, what is the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] assessment of the casualty toll among members of Hizballah and Ahmad Jibril's group and the number of terrorist installations hit so far?

[Baraq] I assume several dozen terrorists have been killed and several dozen have been wounded. Their infrastructure—including residential buildings, warehouses, ammunition depots, camps, and command bases—has been severely damaged. In this respect, the operation has been very successful so far.

[Litman] How effective is the tactic of expelling or causing the exodus of Lebanese citizens toward Beirut?

[Baraq] We hold Hizballah as the main party responsible for what is happening, but we also attribute some measure of responsibility to the Lebanese Government, which claims to be sovereign and claims to enforce its sovereignty in the area beyond the security zone. We expect it to do what this implies, namely, to stop Hizballah's activities.

[Litman] What about the Syrians?

[Baraq] The Syrians control the supply routes through which Hizballah gets ammunition and equipment, its training areas, and its rear guard bases. In this sense, the Syrians could also thwart Hizballah's activities. As long as the Lebanese Government and Army, backed by the Syrians, fail to do that, we will continue to deal with Hizballah.

[Litman] Has the IDF destroyed a large number of katyusha launchers? Could you estimate how many more launchers remain?

[Baraq] A number of katyusha launchers have been hit in the last few days, but I estimate that the terrorist organizations still have a lot of them. A launcher is a small object and relatively easy to conceal. I assume the terrorists will try to bring more katyushas from the north. I would not count on the katyushas being finished within the next day or two.

Rabin Briefs Knesset Committee on Lebanese Operation

TA2707122193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Excerpt] In a meeting with members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Prime Minister Rabin said that reports publicized this morning, citing a senior Jerusalem source who said that the operation will last a week or perhaps two weeks, are not true. Rabin believes that the operation will be short, a matter of days. We want Lebanese villagers to flee and we want to damage all those who were parties to Hizballah's activity, the prime minister stated, adding: The goal of the operation is to get the southern Lebanese population

to move northward, hoping that this will tell the Lebanese Government something about the refugees who may get as far north as Beirut.

As for the katyushas, the prime minister said that Hizballah possesses hundreds of katyushas and mortars, and a strong infrastructure. The Hizballah people have also gained a great deal of experience and are well aware of ranges, so that our ability to locate the katyushas is limited, because the reference is sometimes to a single launcher operated by a timer. Still, we are operating against the katyushas.

As for the Knesset members, most of them support the government and the operation, with certain reservations. Particularly noticeable was the support of Likud leaders Binyamin Netanyahu and Ari'el Sharon. [passage omitted]

[Also reporting on the meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 27 July adds: "Rabin told the committee members that he was faced with three alternatives: First, expanding the security zone. Second, accepting Hizballah's rules of game which would have resulted in continued firing of katyushas on the Galilee settlements. Third, and this is the option I chose Rabin said, is to clearly declare that if there is no quiet here, there will be no quiet in Lebanon either. It is obvious that Hizballah wants to stop the peace talks, and for this organization, this will be a greater achievement than the damage inflicted on our settlements." Also, "our goal is to prevent the terrorists from launching katyushas too readily. We have no other goal in Lebanon, the prime minister concluded." Regarding Syrian aid to Hizballah in the form of the tranfer of weapons, especially Sagger missiles, "Likud's Binyamin Netanyahu suggested that this subject be raised in the talks with Warren Christopher, while Ari'el Sharon suggested that continued negotiations with Syria be made conditional on Syrian action against Hizballah."]

Peres: Pressure To Continue While Katyushas Fired

NC2707192093 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Dispatch by Mahir Shalabi from the northern border]

[Excerpts] The Israeli bombardment has intensified today, marking the most violent attack by Israeli troops since the start of operations two days ago. [passage omitted]

Asked if there is information about Syrian pressure against Hizballah to end its attacks against Israel, an Israeli military spokesman said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified military official speaking in English with superimposed Arabic translation] I do hope that the Syrian and Lebanese Governments and the Hizballah leadership are assessing the situation and that they realize that we are serious in our actions. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres visited the northern areas adjacent to the borders with Lebanon to get a closer look at the situation there. Peres stated that the continued firing of katyushas against northern Israel will be painful primarily to the Lebanese state, or what is left of it, and that the Israeli pressure on Lebanon will not end so long as there are Katyusha attacks against northern Israel. He added:

[Begin recording] [Peres speaking in English with superimposed Arabic translation] They are victimizing first of all the Lebanese Government, the Lebanese people, and the Lebanese land by receiving orders from an irresponsible foreign state, thus forcing a heavy reaction from us. If they believe that this will affect us, they are mistaken. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Offers Reasons for Operation

TA2707174493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Salman Tawil in Qiryat Shemona on 27 July—recorded; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles, processed from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Tawil] Mr. Peres, after three days of the IDF's military operation in south Lebanon against Hizballah, has the government set a time limit for its duration, or is it open-ended?

[Peres] The government pursues its goal and does not follow a timetable. The goal is clear: to stop the firing of katyushas at Israel's northern townships, at Upper Galilee, at Qiryat Shemona, and at completely innocent civilians.

[Tawil] It is common knowledge that Hizballah hopes to get Israel bogged down in the Lebanese quagmire again. Is there any such possibility?

[Peres] Things have really become entangled. This does not affect Israel, but rather Lebanon. It is Lebanon that is getting in a mess. They are showing the whole world that Lebanon has no government and that even if Beirut has a policy, it is powerless to implement it. There is no Lebanese Army. This justifies Israel's concept of the security zone, because only we can supervise or try to set straight such a deranged and savage organization as Hizballah, which does not take orders from the Lebanese Government, but from Iran.

[Tawil] And perhaps also Syria?

[Peres] I do not know about Syria. Syria permits the organization to exist, but Hizballah's mentor is Iran.

[Tawil] Could this operation or its ramifications affect the peace process?

[Peres] I do not think so. Look, we must not describe peace as some sort of prize the Arabs give to the Jews. Peace is a prize that both the Arabs and the Jews give themselves. It is of mutual interest, and no one is doing anybody any favors. I think that neither the Arabs nor us have a better alternative than peace. Therefore, I believe the process will continue.

[Tawil] Mr. Peres, perhaps you saw the shocking pictures on the other side of the border yesterday? What effect did it have on you? Perhaps some people are talking about a deliberate scorched-earth policy?

[Peres] I most certainly agree with you. I think that Hizballah is causing terrible damage to Lebanon. Before it can strike at us, it does tremendous damage to Lebanon. What do people expect in Lebanon? That we will be fired upon and not retaliate. That is absurd.

Says No Secret Talks Under Way

TA2707164893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1545 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in south Lebanon would last for a matter of days, not weeks. Peres added that the situation would not harm the continuation of the peace process. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel spoke with Foreign Minister Peres this afternoon in Nahariyya.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I believe that this is more a matter of days and not weeks. However, the IDF's supreme effort is first of all directed at stopping the katyushas. The Hizballah changed the rules of the game and we cannot ease the pressure until this is over.

[Mandel] Could the present tension in south Lebanon perhaps affect the peace process?

[Peres] No, I do not think so. I do not think that the Americans, the Arabs, or Israel would like to put the fate of the peace process in the hands of Hizballah just because it fires katyushas. That would be crazy. Hizballah wants to destroy the peace process, and we must not give in to it. The peace process must be continued regardless of what Hizballah does.

[Mandel] Mr. Foreign Minister, are the Americans and the Syrians holding behind-the-scenes contacts to stop the fighting in south Lebanon?

[Peres] No, I think that at this juncture all the action is taking place on stage. Everything is open and public knowledge. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 27 July adds that "Foreign Minister Peres made the assessment that Syria would not intervene in the fighting in Lebanon. Peres told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that Syria was aware of the aims and parameters of the IDF's mission."]

Shahal Believes 'Message' of Action Understood

TA2707131593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1135 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Interview with Moshe Shahal, police and energy and infrastructure minister, by Gid'on Zelinger and Karmit Gay—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Zelinger] I assume that the government has a plan and has both larger goals and interim goals in mind. Has one of those interim goals been achieved already?

[Shahal] In my opinion, yes. Not everything can be elaborated on though. The basic problem is known: The balance has been disrupted, and the clear signal that should be relayed is that Israel will not sit idly by if there are attacks and unrest on its border. The residents of the other side should understand this message and eliminate the escalation taking place lately in Hizballah's activity. I think that the first goal, the part carried out by the Air Force and Navy on Sunday [25 July], was achieved in full. The second goal is aimed at influencing the governments concerned, both in Lebanon and Syria, and I am convinced that the message is clear to them. I think that there are not too many people in the world in general and in our region in particular who understand messages better than the Lebanese and the Syrians. I believe that in view of our determination this will come to pass shortly, they will understand. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 27 July reports that during a tour of the Galilee Panhandle today Minister Shahal said: "The situation should not be defined in terms of weeks. The operation being carried out by the Israel Defense Forces is very well planned and is being implemented in detail."]

Minister Rubinstein Discusses IDF Operation

TA2807110793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Interview with Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein by Jack Katzenell after the cabinet meeting in Jerusalem today—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Katzenell] As a representative of the Meretz bloc, are you not concerned about the thousands of Lebanese civilians being driven from their villages by the Israeli shelling and bombing?

[Rubinstein] Of course I am concerned, but I am also concerned about the suffering and the losses of Israeli citizens who have to be exposed to this sort of menace day and night. So I have to take into account both the suffering of the Lebanese and the Israelis. Both are victims of a murderous gang called the Hizballah.

[Katzenell] Do you think that this is going to change the behavior of the Hizballah?

[Rubinstein] No, I don't think this is going to affect directly the Hizballah, but it enabled the Israeli Army to wage a more effective war against the Hizballah, and it drives home a point that if there is war, both sides have to suffer. We cannot go on with new rules of the game, which the Hizballah tried to impose on us, that havoc is being wreaked only against the Galilee, while they continue in their daily life. This will not go on.

[Katzenell] But surely this campaign was sparked off by Israel's losses in the security zone rather than in Galilee....

[Rubinstein, interrupting] Not true, not true. It was inspired by the fact that every response to an attack by the Hizballah brought about an attack against Qiryat Shemona and our villages and settlements in the north. We would not have reacted had it been limited to the security zone. Sorry, correction: We would have reacted, but not with such a military operation. This military operation was motivated by the fact that the Hizballah attacked and continued to attack and menaced the peace of part of Israel, not of the security zone.

[Katzenell] So basically, the campaign will end if you feel that Hizballah will in the future confine itself to attacks on the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the security zone.

[Rubinstein] No. We would like to put an end to the Hizballah altogether, and we would like to put an end to attacks by the Hizballah on the South Lebanese Army, but because of this operation is not a continuous armed conflict along the security zone, because of this attack and this military operation is the menace and attack against our citizens within Israel. [as heard]

Cabinet Session Ends; No Decisions on Operation

TA2807090193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Gutman] The special cabinet session called to discuss the situation in Lebanon has just ended. Here is an official statement by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein:

[Rubinstein] As has been the case on several occasions this week, the cabinet convened today in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs to hear a report about the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities in south Lebanon. It heard reports about these activities from the prime minister and defense minister, the chief of staff, and other IDF officers. The bottom line is that the IDF continues to operate in accordance with the government's decisions.

[Gutman] Have any new decisions been made? Was a vote taken today?

[Rubinstein] No new decisions were made today. The activities continue according to existing plans.

[Gutman] Thanks to Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. We would like to add a few more details about the debate held by the cabinet. One of the main topics on the agenda was south Lebanon residents fleeing northward. The cabinet was told that there is a great deal of satisfaction, far beyond what had been planned, with this exodus. Israel had estimated some 100,000 people would flee, but according to current estimates 150,000 to 200,000 people have fled north. Lebanese estimates are slightly over, and put the number at 300,000.

In any event, the prime minister and other security sources expressed a great deal of satisfaction with the pace of the exodus. Israel is now waiting for the political repercussions of this development. In fact, all eyes are now turned to the government in Beirut to see what it will do with this flow of refugees. Hence, the Israeli cabinet is now awaiting the political repercussions of this mass exodus which, according to sources here, has succeeded beyond all predictions.

The usual disagreements emerged in the cabinet session. Meretz' ministers, particularly Yosi Sarid, voiced reservations. The rest of the ministers voiced their support. As we heard from Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, no decisions were made but the main theme was great satisfaction with the pace of the exodus from the south and waiting for this development's political outcome. The cabinet also heard a brief review in anticipation of Warren Christopher's visit in the region next week.

Christopher Visit Called Separate Issue

TA2807105293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Raz] [passage omitted] How long will the current stage of the operation last? This was unclear to both reporters and ministers during today's cabinet meeting. Minister Ya'aqov Tzur made the following comment after the cabinet meeting.

[Tzur] Matters are not nailed down. We should allow this stage, although painful to the villagers there, to run its course thereby leading to political pressure that will cause a change in Hizballah's conduct.

[Raz] Speaking of political pressure, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit may also create such pressure, and one interesting question is whether it will limit the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces'] maneuverability in Lebanon. Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, for instance, believes there is no connection between the two.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] It looks a little complex, I know, but there is no connection between the two. I think that the United States recognizes our right to self-defense, security, and our right to reject attempts to take our settlements hostage.

[Raz] In its special session today the cabinet distinguished between the IDF operation in Lebanon and the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will arrive this weekend.

What will the ministers learn from this visit, from Christopher's intended mission? Following is Minister Arye Der'i:

[Der'i] Christopher's visit relays two messages: A. The political process continues regardless of events; it is not dependent on events. B. I think, or so we hope, that upon his arrival here Christopher will explain what is at stake to the regional leaders; we hope that with his special pressure he will try to restore some sanity to the regional decisionmakers.

[Raz] In other words, to convince Syria to act against Hizballah, right?

[Der'i] To make clear to Syria and others what they stand to lose here. I hope Christopher's visit will aid in this way.

[Raz] Today's cabinet meeting was quite calm. The ministers were not required to make new decisions, namely, to pass to the next stage in the IDF plan. The chief of staff yesterday referred to a third phase, but reference was probably to the third phase of the first stage. Again, no far-reaching moves, beyond bombing and shelling, no expansion of the IDF operation in southern Lebanon, was discussed. There were few disagreements during the session. It was only Minister Yosi Sarid, in fact, who expressed doubts.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 28 July stresses that "during the meeting several ministers expressed the hope that Secretary Christopher who is arriving this weekend will pressure Syria to act against Hizballah. Several ministers said the IDF operation should be separate from the political process and that the peace process should continue regardless of the operation."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 28 July adds that "Dennis Ross, coordinator of the peace process for the State Department, delayed his visit to the region. He was slated to arrive yesterday to prepare for Secretary Christopher's visit. The assumption in Jerusalem is that this postponement is so Ross can brief Christopher in Washington for his very important visit to the region."]

Savir: U.S. Agrees Peace Process Should Continue

TA2707175793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The director general of the Foreign Ministry, Uri Savir, says the peace process should not and would not be adversely affected by the military operation in Lebanon. At a news conference in Jerusalem, he said there is a basic understanding in the United States and other countries about the reasons for the operation. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Uri Savir says he does not know why Secretary of State Warren Christopher broke off his visit to the Far East. But, Savir said, Israel had been informed that the secretary would arrive in Israel on Sunday as planned to discuss the continuation of the peace process. There is a basic understanding in the United States of the provocation to which Israel had been subjected by Hizballah and the problem that it posed to the security of the northern border and to the peace process, the director general said.

[Savir] We see eye to eye with the United States that such an operation and the situation as such should not in any way undermine the peace process, but on the contrary, it should undermine the enemies of the peace process. Therefore, I don't think that the secretary's dealing with the Lebanese situation or dealing with the peace process are incompatible. These are two compatible activities. Obviously, the Hizballah aims and activities are a burden on the process. They have to be dealt with on the military front, they have to be dealt with on the diplomatic front. This is something the United States definitely can and will do. Also, I think we will welcome the secretary in order to discuss with him these two aspects of the peace process: deterrence against the Hizballah, on one side, and continuing to promote the process, on the other side.

[Katzenell] Uri Savir is critical of Syria's role in enabling Hizballah to operate against Israel. He had the impression that Syria was waiting for an opportune moment to clamp down on Hizballah's activity in order to reap political advantage from this. But Syria cannot play a double game, he said, turning Hizballah's disruptive activity on and off like a tap. [end recording]

Minister Comments on Expanded Operation; U.S. Role

TA2807063893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Friedman] Minister Bar'am, does the Israeli Government, the prime minister, and our activity in southern Lebanon invite U.S. pressure?

[Bar'am] Look, developments usually have international implications, and intervention takes place, sooner or later. The world today is less polarized, and therefore we do not feel the past pressure that the former Soviet Union used to exert on the Americans and the United Nations. Since the fundamentalists' attempt to carry out terrorist acts in the United States began, its attitude toward fundamentalism is very critical. Therefore, the anti-Hizballah action does not seem problematic to the Americans, although naturally, they discourage any expansion of the operation that could harm the peace process. I agree with that, because I firmly believe that the true solution is peace with Syria and Lebanon.

[Friedman] Israel should perhaps encourage the United States to intervene and pressure Syria for peace in the Galilee.

[Bar'am] I do not know what Israel should encourage, but the Americans know what they are doing. I certainly think that a U.S. dialogue with Syria is very important since the latter is influential. All reports we have heard indicate that from their viewpoint the Syrians are not interested in stopping the escalation in the north, and therefore, any U.S. intervention is welcome. The prime minister and defense minister wants a short but also an effective operation, and....

[Dan, interrupting] The Americans intervene with Israel too though. When Christopher asks Rabin not to introduce ground forces in Lebanon—what degree of influence does he have?

[Bar'am] First, he does have influence, since one should also consider international aspects, in relations with the United States, but as far as infantry forces are concerned, the problem is ours not the Americans. [passage omitted]

Sarid on al-Shar' Statement, Peace Process

TA2807143393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1320 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Gay Zohar and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that Syria will not continue negotiating with Israel under the threat of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] guns. Does this stop the peace process?

[Sarid] I do not think so. I believe that Syria, Israel, and the other parties in the negotiations have very clear interests for continuing the talks. When the interests are so important and clear, none of the parties can leave the negotiating table. I believe that the interests are not affected by short-term events. I believe that the operation currently underway will be short—hence the negotiations will resume. I also understand that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is due in the region in the next few days, will make serious efforts to allow the negotiations continue as we all want them to, believe, and hope they will.

[Mardor] You say that the operation will be short. Do you have any idea regarding its duration?

[Sarid] Even if I had an idea, I do not believe it would be wise to share it with you. Furthermore, it is hard to predict a date, but it is absolutely clear—judging from the prime minister's and government's statements—that the operation has clearly defined goals and there is absolutely no reason for it to continue for long. Furthermore, the State of Israel and the Government of Israel is willing to stop it right away, once the katyusha shelling of our northern settlements stops.

[Zohar] What is your reaction to the Lebanese Government announcement that it will not provide the refugees with aid. Is it possible that the Lebanese Government will not act according to our forecasts?

[Sarid] I will not discuss our forecasts because, as it is known, we had differences regarding the manner in which this operation should be handled. I will repeat what I have said before: There are no disagreements about the goals of the operation. There are two goals: one, to provide security for the northern settlements, which is self evident; two, to hit Hizballah as hard as possible.

[Zohar] Is there anything happening of which you were afraid?

[Sarid] After the first cabinet session on the operation, I said that I pray for the safety of the IDF soldiers, for the residents of the north, and that each one of the things about which I had expressed fear at the session do not materialize. I would not like to reach any conclusions yet because such operations are never reviewed a few days after they start. I hope my fears will be found unfounded.

[Mardor] Minister Sarid, is expressing your dissatisfaction enough at this stage?

[Sarid] What do you mean? We are members of the government, we participate in the cabinet discussions, we make our opinions known, and we take part in the votes. As for this particular Lebanese affair, there were at least two situations in which we had the majority; one or two where we were in the minority. I do not know any better way to hold democratic discussions and decisions; you win some and you lose some, and you cannot accept only the occasions where you win. The majority makes the decision, even if at times you are on the opposite side. We have an influence on the government, we do our best and see our efforts yield fruit—not always as fast as we would like it to, however.

[Zohar] Would you like to introduce any changes in the decisions that are to be made over the coming days?

[Sarid] I would not like to discuss the next few days, but everybody knows that over the past two weeks, when the issue was placed on the cabinet's agenda, we had reservations and ideas—mainly regarding the manner in which this operation should be conducted—some of which were accepted, while others were rejected.

France Asked To Use Influence To Stop Hizballah

TA2707210293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Israel has asked France to use its influence with the Lebanese Government or with any other element related to the affair in order to stop Hizballah's activity. Our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts reports that Israeli Ambassador Yehuda Lankry submitted the request to Serge Boidevaix, the director general of the French Foreign Ministry. The French official said that his country was concerned about the scope of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon and hoped that it would end shortly. Boidevaix added that Syria, which had already been a tough interlocutor in the peace process, could now adopt an even more negative stance and that the situation could deteriorate.

MK Goldfarb: Tzomet Prepared to Join Government

TA2707132393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Knesset Member Alex Goldfarb of Tzomet says that, if asked, his party would be prepared to join the government without posing too many demands. He told correspondent Gad Ben-Yitzhaq he was not expressing his own private opinion and that the issue had come up in a meeting of Tzomet's secretariat yesterday.

Tzomet Denies Talks Under Way

TA2707161793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Tzomet officials say the party is not engaged in any negotiations whatsoever about joining the coalition, and that the remarks of Knesset Member Alex Goldfarb on the issue are his own private opinion. This was reported by our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich. Earlier Goldfarb said that, if asked, Tzomet would be prepared to join the government without posing too many demands.

New Israeli Early Warning Aircraft Detailed

TA2707111093

[Editorial Report] In Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 27 July in a 1,300-word report on page 13, Arye Egozi reports that "a few days ago" he participated in one of the first test flights of "the Falcon—the most advanced electronic early warning aircraft in the world, developed by the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]." The aircraft is a Boeing 707 with avionics developed by the IAI's subsidiary Elta. The Falcon was exhibited at the Paris Air Show a month ago and aroused wide interest because of its "special radar, powerful antennae, and electronic equipment, which made the standard 707 what professional circles call 'the Israeli AWACS.'" Egozi says that according to foreign reports, Chile is interested in buying the plane. During the test flight, dozens of Elta engineers and technicians were working in the body of the aircraft handling the equipment. "Thirteen operating consoles were built in the part of the aircraft that normally carries cargo. They are meant to provide an accurate picture of aerial and naval activities over a huge area in real time," Egozi writes.

"Our radar can identify a target, such as a fighter plane, at a range of some 400 km and a helicopter at a range of 180 km," Me'ir Bartov, head of the Falcon project at Elta, says. "Unlike the AWACS, where the antennae were installed on a large revolving dish at the back of the aircraft, the Falcon's antennae were built along the fuselage and the nose of the aircraft." Bartov says that "the Falcon can clearly identify an enemy plane within two to four seconds." Egozi adds that "not only has a powerful radar been installed on the aircraft, but its other systems enable the Falcon to locate enemy radar in an especially wide area." At the altitude the Falcon flies—the test flight was at 33,000 feet—it can "intercept many radio transmissions, record some of them, and transmit parts for further analysis to the mission commander." The back of the aircraft contains a rest area for the operating crew. "The large antennae, especially the huge nose added to the plane, have almost not affected the Falcon's aerodynamics," test pilot Menahem Shmu'el says. "Planning by IAI's Lahav plant, and manufacture by its Bedeq Aviation Division, permitted the installation of the huge antennae in a 'clean' way," Egozi writes. He says the test flight in which he participated was the sixth carried out by the Falcon. "Several more months are needed before the aircraft is ready for handing over to the client. Elta hopes many countries will procure the Falcon. At a price of (only) $150 million, the IAI is offering a system which surpasses the performance of the AWACS, which costs about $500 million."

Arms Trading Report Submitted to UN Register

TA2807095893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 93 p A1

[Report by security affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] For the first time since Israel's inception, the Israeli Government this month submitted a report to an international element on its weapons procurement and sales. The data were handed to the UN Arms Register, [preceding two words in English throughout] and will be open for scrutiny by all UN members, including Arab countries.

The Israeli report includes data on U.S. weapons supplied to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] last year, such as F-16's, and on the export of weapons systems, especially to the United States. The report was prepared by the Defense Ministry and relayed to the United Nations through the Foreign Ministry. According to government elements, Israel did not buy or sell weapons in most of the categories listed in the Arms Register. [passage omitted]

Defense establishment elements said in the past that they are not afraid of the exposure involved in a report to United Nations. "We purchase the main weapons systems from the United States, so we have no problem reporting them to the United Nations, as the deals are reported to the U.S. Congress anyway," the elements

said, adding: "We also do not export to any country Israeli submarines or fighter planes."

The Israeli weapons export is mainly made up of components, subsystems, and advanced technology and know-how which are not included in the Arms Register's categories. Other weapons systems, such as tanks and missiles, the IDF purchases from the Israeli industries.

It is estimated in Israel that the superpowers too will not submit to the UN Arms Register information about secret arms transactions, and will maintain secrecy in the areas they deem important.

Prince Hasan Receives Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister

'Aziz Attends Banquet

JN2707152193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. They discussed brotherly Jordanian-Iraqi relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki, Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, royal adviser Ihsan Shurdum, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman, Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, hosted a dinner banquet attended by 'Aziz, members of the Jordanian party, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Iraqi Sanctions, Jordan's Role Discussed

JN2807100193 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, met this afternoon with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. Talks during the meeting centered on bilateral ties, regional issues, and international developments. The talks also included a working lunch. Maha al-Sha'ir asked his royal highness and Mr. 'Aziz on the situation in Iraq.

[Begin recording] [al-Sha'ir] Your royal higness, Jordan is having better relations with the United States. To what extent can Jordan help the situation in Iraq to kind of lift the sanctions, if that is possible?

[Hasan] That is not a Jordanian concern. Effectively, that is the responsibility of the Iraqi Government in discussion with the United Nations. And I believe it is for His Excellency Mr. Tariq 'Aziz to comment on that point. However, I would like to make it very clear that as I said in NEWSWEEK magazine in the fall of 1990, it cannot be expected of a country that has not been directly sanctioned to continue to pay the very high price that Jordan pays, when Jordan was the first of 24 countries to be invited by the secretary general at that time of the most affected countries by the sanctions. And it is our hope that the agreement in the context of United Nations resolutions would result in a thawing of economic and social distress, not least of all in Iraq itself and among the children of Iraq.

[al-Sha'ir] Where is Iraq right now? And what is Iraq doing so as to be able to lift the sanctions?

['Aziz] We discussed this matter with the chairman of the Special Commission, who represented the Council in his visit to Baghdad, Ambassador Ekeus. And we said that the implementation of UN resolutions has to be hand in hand, or has to be step by step with the decisions of the Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed by Iraq, because if Iraq is supposed to honor its commitments in accepting Resolution 687, the Security Council is also supposed to honor its commitment in the same resolution, which contains the element of lifting the sanctions. We hope that this argument, which is just and logical, would receive more support within the Council than before.

'Aziz Notes 'Deep Satisfaction' With Ties

JN2707200393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1853 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Amman, 27 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has expressed his deep satisfaction with the relations between Iraq and Jordan. He described them as cordial and fraternal.

In a statement broadcast by Jordanian television here tonight, 'Aziz said the relations between Jordan and Iraq are relations between two fraternal states and peoples who worked together for a long time in constructive fields. He said these relations are characterized by cordiality, fraternity, and sacrifice. He added that the two sides believe these relations are important for Jordan, Iraq, and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Hasan Denounces Lebanon Events

JN2707190493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has said that His Majesty King Husayn's expected visit to France and Turkey is part of his majesty's continued efforts to explain Jordanian and Arab views to friendly states. In a statement to reporters following his reception of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz at the Royal Hashemite Court today, his highness denounced Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He said it is blocking international efforts to bring about peace in the region. His highness warned of the continuation of the conflict in the region.

[Begin recording] [Hasan] We should explain Jordan's voice. Jordan's geographic and political role is central in this area of the world. His majesty the king can best carry out this mission through his contacts in France and in Turkey, which also has an important status in this area of the world.

[Unidentified reporter] Your highness the prince: The U.S. secretary of state is expected to visit the region. Will events in southern Lebanon affect this visit, especially since news agencies are reporting a possible postponement of the visit? If the visit takes place, will it be important to the peace process in the region?

[Hasan] I cannot add anything to the U.S. statement itself, which expressed concern and fear that violence and fighting will affect the visit and the peace process.

[Reporter] Israeli forces committed an aggression on southern Lebanon. What would you say about this aggression and its impact on the peace process in the region?

[Hasan] We are extremely concerned about stability in the region. We fear this region may be disrupted and Balkanized, ethnically and religiously. Reviewing Lebanization efforts and the hopes of the past few years for reconstruction, we can say these hopes are being dashed by this large-scale aggression. I believe every Arab and Muslim is anxious about this. I would like to repeat what I said yesterday before our great guest, the Turkish foreign minister. I said the situation will not last and will not tolerate the absence of stability and peace. Violence generates violence. [end recoding]

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, discussed with Tariq 'Aziz the brotherly Jordanian-Iraqi relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest. For his part, 'Aziz praised brotherly and ongoing relations between Jordan and Iraq. Replying to a question from our correspondent on current talks between Iraq and the United Nations regarding the inspection teams, Tariq 'Aziz said:

[Begin recording] ['Aziz] Ekeus' visit to Baghdad was an important occasion for us and the other side to hold an in-depth dialogue on all pending issues. We were eager to deal with pending issues in an objective and constructive way. We can say our talks in Baghdad took place within that framework. Therefore, we were able to achieve positive results, to resolve pending problems temporarily, and to agree to continue the dialogue in New York and then in Baghdad in order to resolve pending problems between us and the Special Commission. [end recording]

Leaders, Press Cited on Israeli Attack on Lebanon

King Sees Risk to Peace Talks

NC2807110393 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Manama, July 28 (AFP)—Jordan's King Husayn called Wednesday for Israel to halt its assault on guerrillas in Lebanon and warned that the Middle East peace process was at stake.

"I hope for a quick end to the fighting so it doesn't affect the peace process," the king said in an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAH.

He warned that there was "no alternative to peace" in the region.

"Continuing violence can only have negative effects (on the peace process) and I am hopeful these operations will be curbed and stopped soon," the king said.

Jordan is the only party to the faltering peace talks which is not directly involved in the violence, which has killed four Syrian soldiers deployed in Lebanon.

Israel's "Operation Accountability" against the pro-Iranian Hizballah and radical Palestinian guerrillas in south Lebanon has killed at least 69 people, mostly civilians, and driven 300,000 people out of their homes since Sunday.

Prince Hasan Comments

JN2707204393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, warned that a continuation of violence in south Lebanon will destabilize the region. His royal highness told the News at Ten that the Middle East peace talks could be in the balance if the situation continues.

[Begin recording] [Hasan] Clearly, the destabilization of the region and the dislocation effectively of the peace talks may well be in the balance if the spiral of violence continues, and I would just like to remind the world of the term Lebanonization and cantonization of the Lebanon, which we thought had been left behind with the renewal of reconstruction in the Lebanon, stability in the Lebanon. Any suggestion effectively of an extension of hegemonistic sphere of influence by Israel in parts of the Lebanon, as we here of bombing only 15 km from Beirut, are extremely worrying to us, and I believe, as you well know, the statements that have emitted from many capitals, including the United States, echo a similar worry and concern.

[Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] To what extent has the attack on south Lebanon affected or will hamper the peace process?

[Hasan] I think it is too early to tell. But clearly the Security Council has to fulfill its obligation. [end recording]

Al-Majali on 'Serious Consequences'

JN2707195893 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali warned against the serious consequences of the Israeli air raids in Lebanon. Dr. al-Majali said the raids set a general pattern of Israeli behavior before every opening for peace.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] The unfortunate thing, Israel still adopt the policy of having provocation every time there is a chance of getting few steps for the peace. And, I don't think this is an exception. You know that Secretary Christopher is coming to the area, and I think he is coming for discussion of a serious nature. So, this is one of the things which has taken place, unfortunately. But, I think it is of a certain magnitude, that my feeling that it's going to be terribly serious affecting the peace. I don't think people are in the state of mind talking peace in a nice way while feeling that people are killed haphazardly, and Lebanon is being attacked in such a fierceful [as heard] way, which is nothing to be compared to what

the other side is claiming that the security of Lebanon affecting their own security.

Violence bring violence, and this will go on forever. The only way is to sit and make the good gestures for peace and in a peaceful way, in a peaceful atmosphere. This is not a peaceful atmosphere when you listen to what has happened in Lebanon.

[Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] And do you think that Secretary of State Christopher's visit to the area would help or protect the peace process?

[Al-Majali] Well, as a matter of fact we just heard that he canceled the rest of his trip to Asia and there is possibility that he may change the time of his visit here, because I thought that, again, coming in such an atmosphere, I do not think he will be relaxed to say what he wanted to say. [end recording]

Deputies Denounce Israeli Raids

JN2707202893 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The lower house of parliament issued a strong condemnation of the Israeli raids on Lebanon. It said this flagrant aggression is taking place right before the United Nations and defendants of those who call for international legitimacy.

The deputies' statement urged Arabs to unite in the face of such attacks, and called on the United Nations to condemn the Israeli raids.

Israeli 'Contempt' for Peace Process

JN2807112093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Jul 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Israel's Reception of Christopher's Tour"]

[Text] Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker used to complain that before every visit to Tel Aviv within a tour in the region, the Israelis rush to receive him by announcing the construction of new settlements.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher is currently preparing to visit the region. This time, the Israelis are rushing to greet him by firing thousands of shells and missiles at Lebanon and declaring that their war against this country—that has never been engaged in any war against the Israelis—will not stop, and that they themselves will disarm the resistance. The question posed by these dangerous and astonishing developments is: If the Israelis shoulder responsibility for launching what they call the war of accountability and disarming the Lebanese, then what is left for the peace process? Isn't the direct objective of this process to turn the page of wars, halt the use of weapons, and try to establish comprehensive peace that is acceptable to all parties?

One aspect of what the Israelis have been doing since last Sunday is that they have shown contempt for the peace process, the party sponsoring it, the parties taking part in it, and all those who are pinning hope on this process. Though the international reactions condemning the new Israeli aggressions are increasing, the sole superpower has a special responsibility; namely, to curb the aggression, work seriously to stop it, and facilitate the Security Council's task of monitoring and controlling the situation and preventing Israel from unilaterally deciding the affairs and future of the region, and to prevent Tel Aviv from imposing its own, weird concepts of war and peace.

It is known that Tel Aviv, and to a lesser extent Washington, holds Hizballah responsible for the tension and violence in the region, but facts indicate that this party was established after the adoption of Resolution 425 in 1978 [date as published] and after Israel's rejection to implement the international resolution. It is useless to speak about Hizballah's opposition to the peace process, because the one who is concerned for the success of the peace process is the one who respects international resolutions and starts implementing them. The latest developments prove that Tel Aviv opposes and antagonizes the peace process far more than Hizballah.

Regardless of the U.S. position toward what is going on, it is clear that the Israeli rulers do not expect anything from Christopher's tour after they have given themselves the right to do whatever they want, whenever they want, as if the tour will not take place and as if the U.S. secretary will not do anything that will influence the course of events. Congratulations to Washington for this Israeli preparation for the secretary's visit.

Events 'Clear Message' For Christopher

JN2807065293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Reminder for the Secretary"]

[Text] The renewed fighting across the Lebanese frontier, on a scale unmatched in recent years, offers an insight into what could happen to the region should the peace process continue to be stalemated. There is little doubt that there is a direct link between the "no peace" situation in the Middle East and the recent flare-up in the fighting between Israel and its Arab neighbours across its norther border with Lebanon. It would also be safe to say that the intensity of the war in southern Lebanon, no matter how serious and extensive it may be now, will not compare with the catastrophe that would befall the entire region should the search for a permanent and just peace persist in being elusive for much longer.

There is a clear message in all of this to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who intends to visit the various Middle Eastern capitals in a bid to breathe new life into the bilateral peace talks. It must be obvious to Washington by involvement in these peace parleys, the negotiating parties would continue to drift apart till there is no chance of bridging the gap between them. By real, determined American effort, we mean spelling out in the clearest possible terms the U.S. Government's position on the full import of U.N. Security Council Resolutions

242 and 338, and how they apply to the entire occupied territories, including Jerusalem. It would be safe to say that the Clinton administration has been less than candid on the future of East Jerusalem and on the geographic implications of Resolution 242 when it is finally implemented.

Israel, even under the rule of the Labour Party which came to power on the peace ticket, has been able to get away with procrastinations on several fronts affecting the Washington peace negotiations primarily because the U.S. has chosen to waiver on the key elements affecting the quest for peace in the region. Time has, therefore came for all parties, especially Washington, to underscore in the clearest possible way their respective stances. The Arab side has been more forthcoming on this score than the Israeli side which has been skirting the issue of Palestinian sovereignty over all their territories, as 242 demands, for much too long.

Mr. Christopher can extend a real helping hand to the U.S.- brokered peace process by coming out loud and clear during his impending visit to the area on the sticking points that seem to prevent the registration of real progress during the past twenty odd months.

UN General Assembly President Arrives on 3-Day Visit

JN2707123493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Stoyan Ganev, president of the UN General Assembly, arrived in Amman this morning on a three-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with senior officials and hold talks on issues of common interest, developments in the Middle East peace negotiations, and existing bilateral cooperation.

The UN official will visit industrial institutions and functionaries. He will also give a lecture at the World Affairs Council about the new world order.

Al-Majali Receives Ganev

JN2707200593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office today Stoyan Ganev, president of the UN General Assembly, who also held talks with Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Bassam al-Sakit, minister of industry and trade.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali held a meeting with the president of the UN General Assembly, who explained his concepts on ways of reorganizing and modernizing UN performance in the political area and in human, economic, and social areas, following the changes that have occurred in the world and created hotbeds like the Balkans, Somalia, and elsewhere. Ganev stressed that the United Nations can play a positive future role only if it can be an effective tool for making peace and preventing confrontations.

In this regard, he said we have to appreciate Jordan's role and its efforts to promote the efficiency of the international organization by contributing to the UN peacekeeping forces in the Balkans, Somalia, and southeast Asia. He added that we cannot ignore Jordan's role in the peace talks, which are aimed at settling the Palestine question and the Middle East problem.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali welcomed Ganev's visit and highly valued his role as president of the UN General Assembly. He pointed out that the visit coincides with Israel's shelling of Lebanese territories from north to south for the third day running. This, he said, will negatively affect the peace talks unless it is halted. He stressed that peace in the Middle East is not important to us alone, but also to the whole world. He said wise men in the world should play their role in this regard if they want to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace and end the conflict in the region by bringing about the peace its peoples desire.

The prime minister stressed the importance of the UN role. The guest agreed to the need to step up the activity of the General Assembly and the UN international bodies representing the interests of the member states of this organization, which the world's nations see as an authority representing the interests of all states and people.

Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, also received at the Foreign Ministry this morning Ganev, president of the UN General Assembly. Al-Hasan briefed him on the distinguished relations between Jordan and the United Nations and its specialized agencies. He stressed Jordan's firm commitment to international resolutions, as well as Jordan's positive contribution to all the UN activities, including its effective participation in the UN peacekeeping forces in several areas of the world.

Dr. Bassam al-Sakit, minister of industry and trade, also met today with Stoyan Gavev, president of the UN General Assembly, in the presence of Jordan's UN permanent representative 'Adnan Abu- 'Awdah.

[Begin al-Sakit recording] I met with the president of the UN General Assembly and discussed with him Jordan's interest in economic reform, the international aid program, and cooperation with international institutions. I explained to the honorable guest the extent of damage caused to Jordan's economy by these measures. I told the guest that Jordan had paid $30 million to importers and consumers to export goods last year, as a result of applying sanctions on our ships coming from the Red Sea. This is a large sum, which means that the consumer, who is a citizen and a human being, will bear the burdens of sanctions imposed on others. I also told him that we are interested in economic support from nongovernmental institutions, as well as our desire for the UN nongovernmental institutions to extend aid to Jordan to carry out its development duties, especially after the recent events and the large-scale damage, and to take

into consideration Jordan's human march, its moderate positions in the international arena, its openness to the outside world in terms of cooperation, its democratic march, and its respect for human rights. This is not just Jordanian talk. International institutions also recognized this good march for Jordan. [end recording]

King Husyan Plans Official Visits To France, Turkey

JN2707155993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] A responsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court has said His Majesty King Husayn will pay a three-day official visit to the Republic of France beginning on Thursday, 29 July 1993 to meet with His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand and senior French officials.

The source said his majesty will also pay a two-day official visit to the Republic of Turkey beginning on 1 August 1993 to meet with His Excellency Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and senior Turkish officials.

The source said that during the two visits, his majesty will discuss with the French and Turkish leaders bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common interest.

Turkish Foreign Minister Holds Press Conference 27 Jul

JN2807070793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jul 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES Staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin Tuesday wound up a three-day visit to Jordan with a highly positive assessment of Jordanian-Turkish relations and identical viewpoints on several regional and international political issues.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Cetin also announced that he had postponed a visit to Israel because of the "developments on the Israeli-Lebanese border," but refused to characterise the postponement as a signal of Turkish criticism of Israel for its three-day assault on its northern neighbour.

"We prefer not to let the actual tension to overshadow this visit and I decided to postpone my visit to a more favourable time when the hostilities would come to an end," Mr. Cetin said.

"It is not a cancellation... it is not a protest, it is just postponed," Mr. Cetin said.

Mr. Cetin condemned the escalation of hostilities on the Israeli- Lebanese front, saying they undermined the Middle East peace process.

"We condemn the recent operations that have caused casualties on the civilian population and we appeal for an immediate cessation of hostilities," he said.

"Such massive use of force... can lead to further escalation and does harm the peace process, especially at a period when a new momentum is being sought," he said.

Mr. Cetin, the first Turkish foreign minister to pay an official visit to Jordan since 1980, described as "very fruitful" his talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who is also foreign minister, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan and Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz.

"I also witnessed that there is a mutual determination and the political will to further strengthen our bilateral relations in all fields," he said.

Topics discussed in the talks, he said, included the Middle East peace process, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the former Soviet Union.

Turkey expressed its "earnest hope that the (peace) talks would contribute to the achievement, as soon as possible, of a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question and to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," he said.

The minister said he also called for an urgent solution to end the "ongoing bloodshed and ethnic cleansing by the aggressors (Serbs and Croats)" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said, adding Turkey also "expressed the pressing need to put an end to the Azeri-Armenian conflict as well as the need to evacuate Azeri territories occupied by Armenia."

During his talks with Mr. Fariz, Mr. Cetin said, the two sides agreed to work an agreement on the promotion of protection of investments in addition to examining the possibilities of establishing joint ventures in third countries, particularly in the republics of the former Soviet Union in Central Asia and Caucasus.

Mr. Cetin, who visited the Jordan Valley as well as the al-Baq'ah refugee camp, called for "more international attention and aid" for Palestinian refugees.

Answering questions at the press conference, Mr. Cetin implicity criticised Israel as well as resistance groups in south Lebanon for starting the latest round of hostilities.

He said he contacted Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres of his decision to postpone his visit to Israel, where he was scheduled to arrive late Tuesday.

Mr. Cetin said Turkey believed that Jerusalem should be an essential part of any Middle East peace settlement.

Noting that Jerusalem is holy to the three monoetheistic religions, he said the Holy City "could not be monopolised by anyone."

"We cannot reach lasting peace solutions without including Jerusalem," he said, adding that the timing of including the status of the Holy City in the peace negotiations was not important as long as it is part of the agenda and will be discussed at one point or another in the talks.

The Turkish foreign minister said his country, an active participant in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, stood ready to contribute to the negotiations, but no specific role or project had yet been defined for Turkey.

He said Turkey was ready to offer its water resources to help resolve the regional crisis over water provided "there is someone who will invest" in developing them.

According to Mr. Cetin, Turkey and Syria are hoping to conclude an agreement before the end of the year on water flowing down from Turkey.

Iraq, which is also depdendent on the downstream water, will not be a party of the accord, but is welcome to a tripartite meeting on the issue, he said.

In the meantime, Iraq will contrinue to get "a certain percentage" of water that reaches Syria and flowing down to Iraqi territory, he added.

Mr. Cetin expressed confidence that Anakara and Baghdad could work out an agreement on transit fee for Iraqi oil flowing through Iraqi pipelines running through Turkish territory to the Mediterranean if the Iraqis manage to reach an accord with the U.N. on a one-time sale of oil.

The pipelines were closed by Turkey immediately after the U.N. Security Council imposed a trade embargo on Iraq following the August 1990 Iraq invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Cetin denied reports that Turkey had started processing Iraqi oil left in the pipeline when it was closed.

Crown Prince, Moroccan King Denounce Israeli 'Aggression'

JN2807104393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] In a telephone conversation this afternoon between His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, discussions dealt with the current aggression against Lebanon, which they both denounced. His Majesty King Hassan II expressed regret at the current Arab situation.

Al-Majali Cited on 'Loopholes' in Electoral Law

JN2807082293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jul 93 pp 1, 10

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—In the strongest indication yet that the al-Majali government is moving towards introducing electoral changes, the prime minister Tuesday cited loopholes in the current Election Law, saying "there is a need to change it."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as telling a group of al-Salt notables that there is a need to amend the law "since it has many gaps in it."

"If the change aims at ensuring further democratic gains, no one should object to the changes," Dr. al-Majali was quoted as saying.

Noting that his Majesty King Husayn has called for a national dialogue on the issue, however, Dr. al-Majali said that "such a dialogue is now going on in the media and the press.

But he added that "nothing can be imposed [on] anyone if the changes do not serve public interest."

Referring to the peace process, the prime minister said the fundamental achievements of the Arab-Israeli negotiations have so far included "an Israeli recognition of (Jordan's) 1948 international borders and of the need to return the 350 square kilometres of (Jordanian territory) occupied by Israel."

He said other achievements included an Israeli recognition of the need to settle the Palestinian refugees problem and "return our rights in the waters of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers." The prime minister did not elaborate on his statement.

"As far as the Palestinian track (of the negotiations) is concerned, much has been achieved but I leave it to (the Palestinians) to announce what was achieved in the suitable time and way for them," said the prime minister.

Reviewing developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem since 1967, Dr. al-Majali said that Jordan had always called for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

"We were, earlier, of the view that the best means of implementing the two resolutions was through an international conference, because the Arabs and the Israelis were leaning on either the United States or the Soviet Union. But now the cold war is over and the United States which emerged as the sole superpower, has found that its interests lie in establishing security and peace in the Middle East region," Dr. al-Majali said.

He said that since security and peace cannot be achieved without the settlement of the Palestinian issue, the crux

of the Arab- Israeli conflict, the Arabs and Israelis have opted to embark on the peace process starting in Madrid.

"The Arabs had to intereact with world developments, and the Jordanians and the Palestinians have jointly set up a delegation determined never to give up any right," the premier said.

He said that in spite of the obstacles placed by the Israeli governments. Jordan has been demanding the implementation of U.N. resolutions and the exchange of land for peace.

He said political parties which had failed in the past to serve the society now have the opportunity to benefit from the earlier experiments and to pursue a path that can best ensure the national interest.

Referring to the economic situation in Jordan, Dr. al-Majali said that the Gulf crisis had had heavy consequences on the Kingdom. He said among the difficulties were the continuing harassment of international shipping and the interception and search of all al- 'Aqabah-bound vessels. This is causing severe damage to the Jordanian economy.

Jordan's commetment to the U.N. sanctions against Iraq has destroyed Jordan's markets in Iraq and its traditional markets in the Gulf and has increased the foreign debts on the country, further obstructing its economic progress, Dr. al-Majali said.

Referring to enter-Arab relations, he said: "We as Arabs take pride in our national stand based on the idea of serving higher national interests."

"Jordanians have always extended a friendly hand to all Arabs and hope that the Arab states will unite to confront the various challenges."

The delegation invited Dr. al-Majali to visit al-Salt and study its resident's needs. The prime minister accepted the invitation.

Israeli Air Raids, Shelling Continue 27 Jul

Attacks on Hizballah Confirmed

TA2707122593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has announced that Israeli aircraft and helicopters have in the last few hours started to attack targets belonging to Hizballah and other terrorist organizations near and inside villages and townships along the entire sector north of the security zone. The attack inside the villages began over 48 hours after the start of the operation and after the villagers were urged to evacuate and steps were taken to safeguard the evacuation. At the same time, IDF guns continue to shell targets north of the security zone in order to disrupt katyusha firing into Israeli territory.

PFLP-GC Centers Shelled

JN2707175493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] At 0300 today, Zionist enemy warships shelled humanitarian and social centers run by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in al-Na'imah hills, south of Beirut.

Israelis Warn Against Road Traffic

NC2707194093 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1909 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Citing a reliable source, our correspondent reports the following:

In order to stop the firing of artillery shells toward Israel and the security area, the Israeli Army has decided to hit all means of transportation moving on civilian and military roads in three areas that we will specify later. The word area is meant to include the village or the township itself, the roads leading to them or around them, and the open lands that surround the village houses. Here are the details of the three areas:

The first area is that of Jibshit.

The second area includes the following villages and townships: Mayfadun, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Qa'qa'iyat al- Jisr, Kafr Sir, Buraykat, (Kusaybah), and Sir al-Gharbiyah.

The third area includes the following villages and townships: al-Ghanduriyah, Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, Shaqra, Khirbat Silm, Bi'r al-Salasil, Bra'shit, Tibnin, 'Ayta al-Zutt, Haddathah, and (Khurays).

All means of transportation seen moving during the night, starting from the time this statement is transmitted, will be regarded as a purely military target and will be hit by the Israeli Army's fire.

Anyone who does not heed these instructions for his own safety will subject himself to danger at his own risk.

Data on IDF Operation Reported

TA2707155393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Israel Air Force raided 25 terrorist targets in Lebanon this afternoon, and all of them were hit. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery fired 3,000 rounds at targets north of the security zone. The terrorists have fired seven katyusha rounds since this morning, and, as a result, two civilians were slightly injured. [passage omitted]

Sources in Lebanon report that the air raids and artillery attacks have inflicted heavy damage on villages along the northern boundary of the security zone. Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Yo'av Aviv report that since the beginning of Operation Accountability the IDF has fired over 8,000 tank and mortar rounds at over 1,000 terrorist targets in some 40 villages in Lebanon. This sums up the activity of the IDF's artillery, which continues along with Air Force raids.

It has been reported from Lebanon that since this morning Israeli artillery has fired over 3,000 rounds, Air Force helicopters have fired about 60 missiles at targets inside villages and at terrorist targets, and bombs have been dropped from the air. It was also noted that since this morning the terrorists have fired seven katyusha rounds at northern Israel, and two civilians were lightly injured. The casualty toll in Lebanon totals 60 dead and hundreds of people wounded since the beginning of the operation. [passage omitted]

UNIFIL's [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] spokesman announced a short time ago that two Israeli Air Force jets raided the headquarters of the Nepalese contingent this morning, and that four UN soldiers were lightly injured. According to the spokesman, some 200 soldiers were on the scene at the time. He added that approximately 15 UNIFIL vehicles were destroyed. IDF officers are looking into the matter. Security sources told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that UNIFIL's headquarters is located in the midst of an area where there are many Hizballah terrorists.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 27 July notes that "quoting Lebanese sources, AFP reports that the number of Lebanese citizens who have fled their homes in south Lebanon over the past two days has now reached 300,000."]

Casualty Report Updated

NC2707204293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Tonight, Israeli planes raided the district of 'Ibba in al-Nabatiyah, where Sergeant Muhammad Nur-al-Din was martyred in his home when it received a direct hit.

A security report noted that 15 people died and 70 were injured today in the Israeli attacks. [passage omitted]

At 2130 this evening the shelling of various villages in Tyre governorate was renewed, including Qulaylah, Jibal al-Butm, al-Mansurah, al-Hinniyah, al-Sh'aytiyah, al-Bazuriyah, 'Aytit, and Hannawiyah.

Israeli warplanes flew over the villages of Kafra, Yatar, al- Siddiqin, Jibal al-Butm, Zibqin, al-Qulaylah, al-Hinniyah, Ma'rub, 'Aytit, and al-Rashidiyah Camp. They also threw flares.

More Israeli Attacks Reported in South 28 Jul

Hizballah Vows To Resist

NC2807061393 Paris AFP in English 0016 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 28 (AFP)—Israeli aircraft and artillery continued pounding guerrilla targets in southern Lebanon overnight, in the heaviest offensive since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982.

The leader of the Iranian-backed Hizballah guerrilla movement, Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, vowed late Tuesday [27 July] that Hizballah would "never go back on its decision to resist to the last bullet."

Speaking on a tour of areas hit by the Israeli bombardment Nasrallah said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin would "pay dearly for his illusion that the resistance can be defeated."

The Israeli offensive launched Sunday has claimed at least 56 lives and wounded 229 people, most of them civilians, according to security sources.

Around 300,000 people have fled their homes since Israel launched "Operation Accountability" in retaliation for what it said was a sharp increase in attacks on northern Israel and its security zone in south Lebanon.

The Lebanese government late Tuesday announced a nationwide ban on all meetings and demonstrations, following a meeting of a special emergency committee set up to deal with the crisis.

"All meetings and demonstrations, whatever their nature, are categorically banned nationwide, in order to protect the population in the light of the latest military developments," said Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr.

Hizballah had called for a pro-resistance demonstration to be held in Beirut Wednesday.

Lebanese police said Israeli helicopter gunships fired rockets at two civilian cars overnight, setting them on fire, two hours after Israel had ordered a halt to all traffic after nightfall on roads near its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

A statement broadcast on the radio of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) warned that any cars violating the ban may be attacked.

Meanwhile three SLA positions in the security zone were attacked overnight, an official close to the SLA said, without giving any casualty figures.

The pro-Syrian Lebanese Shia movement Amal claimed one of the attacks.

Earlier Tuesday Rabin said Israel was determined to destroy Hizballah and radical Palestinian factions to protect northern Israel against Katyusha rocket attacks.

The guerrillas have fired more than 160 rockets at the security zone and northern Israel since Sunday, killing two civilians and a soldier and wounding 32 people.

Rabin told an Israeli parliamentary committee Israel wanted "to provoke an exodus from southern Lebanon towards the north in order to put pressure on the Beirut government and hit those who collaborate with Hizballah."

Israeli Chief of Staff General Ehud Baraq said the bombardments would continue for at least three days "after that we will use ... another method, a more violent and efficient one" if the rocketing did not stop.

The violence prompted U.S. President Bill Clinton to order Secretary of State Warren Christopher to cut short an Asian tour and return to Washington for consultations, amid concern for the Middle East peace talks.

On Tuesday Israeli warplanes carried out 57 raids in 10 hours over Lebanon while artillery gunners unleashed more than 10,000 shells on dozens of villages north of Israel's security zone, security sources said.

For the first time Israeli artillery gunners fired shells at the outskirts of the southern port of Sidon, where most of the 300,000 civilians fleeing bombardments since Sunday have sought refuge.

Those fleeing spoke of unprecedented scenes of devastation. Massive damage was reported in al-Nabatiyah, a Hizballah stronghold, and residents said the village of Jibshit, near Tyre, had been razed.

The U.N. Security Council Tuesday discussed the upsurge in violence in southern Lebanon but took no formal action on the matter.

The Arab League will meet Friday in Damascus to discuss the Israeli attacks, the prime minister's office in Beirut said.

Hizballah Radio on Attacks

NC2807063193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The Zionist aggression against the south and western al-Biqa' continues, escalating from time to time. At about 0630 today, Zionist warplanes carried out two raids against Jibshit, the first targeted the southern approach to the town from 'Adshit, cutting the public road and destroying a civilian vehicle. The raiding

aircraft fired a missile at the vehicle, killing its passengers. The second raid targeted a fuel station in the center of the town.

Meanwhile, a number of villages and towns in the south are coming under concentrated artillery fire. These include Jibshit, 'Adshit, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Barbir, Shukin, Dayr al-Zahrani, Jarju', and 'Ayn Bu Siwar. Our correspondent says that the enemy spared nothing in its shelling, particularly the roads and civilian vehicles. Skeletons of scores of burned vehicles can be seen by the side of the road. Our correspondent says that Zionist aircraft carried out six raids against 'Ayn Bu Siwar alone last night. The artillery shelling continues against this patient town, whose houses have been turned into rubble.

Our correspondent in Sidon reports that enemy artillery deployed in Kafr Falus began shelling Sidon at 0645 today. More than 10 shells were fired; all fell into the sea. Meanwhile, fighter planes are flying at low altitude over the city, launching mock raids. [passage omitted]

As a result of the Zionist aggressions against the peaceful villages yesterday, 20 people were martyred and 130 others were wounded. The continuous cowardly shelling since Sunday has left 58 dead, most of them civilians, and 240 others wounded.

Enemy aircraft yesterday launched more than 75 raids, and continued last night to drop bombs and fire rockets at villages in the southeastern al-Biqa' valley and al-Nabatiyah area. The enemy artillery also shelled scores of villages in the Tyre and Iqlim al- Tuffah districts. More than 10,000 shells were fired yesterday. The shells were falling at the rate of 15 shells per minute.

Israeli Tank Destroyed

NC2807063593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0440 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement in which it announced that the Martyr Ibrahim Shihab group attacked the occupation positions in Bra'shit at 0545 today, destroying a Merkava tank and killing or wounding its crew.

Hizballah Fighters Killed

NC2807075193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Israel resumed its air and ground attacks after 0700 today. Its war planes raided the Mashgharah area, leaving a number of people dead or wounded. Al-Nabatiyah and its suburbs were the target of two air raids this morning.

Security sources said that the raids were the first to be launched by the Israeli war planes today. The sources added that four war planes attacked Hizballah positions in two sorties on the outskirts of Mashgharah, on the southern edge of al-Biqa' valley. According to initial reports, three Hizballah fighters were killed in two raids this morning.

Raid Results in 14 Killed

NC2807114293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Our security correspondent reports that 14 people were killed and scores of others wounded today during the continuing Israeli attacks in the south and western al-Biqa'. AFP cited Lebanese police sources as saying that at least 10 Lebanese civilians were killed and 48 others were wounded. This raises the number of casualties since the start of the Israeli attacks last Sunday [25 July] to 69 dead and 297 wounded. Three civilians, including a woman and her daughter, were killed in an air raid against Kafr Milki at about 1100 today. Two civilians were killed in a shelter in al-Qulaylah village, in the Tyre district, and 20 others were wounded. Another 10 people are still under the rubble. Four other people, including two women and a child, were killed and 23 others were wounded in Israeli shelling against about 30 villages in the Tyre district. A wounded man was killed near 'Ayn al-Tinah as he was being moved by ambulance when an Israeli helicopter opened fire on the vehicle. Three paramedics were wounded in the attack.

Temporary Cease-Fire Declared

TA2807113493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1111 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Report by military correspondent Netan'el Semrik—live]

[Text] This is not an IDF spokesman's announcement, but something we have just learned. The IDF is declaring for the first time in Operation Accountability during the past four days a cease-fire along wide stretches of south Lebanon, which will last several hours and will go into effect at 1530 [1230 GMT] today. Commander of the Northern Command Yitzhaq Mordekhay ordered the cease-fire to enable the inhabitants of south Lebanon to evacuate the locations under fire. We stress that this is a temporary cease-fire, after which heavy shelling is expected to be resumed on villages in south Lebanon.

Defense Minister Visits Army Frontline Positions

NC2807084993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0809 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul arrived at Muhammad Zughayb Barracks at 0930 today. The defense minister was briefed by the military commanders there on the security situation and on the conditions of the towns and villages that have been bombarded by the Israeli forces. Minister Dallul then inspected the Lebanese Army's frontline positions.

Minister Dallul commended the citizens' steadfastness and the army's heroic role and high spirit in confronting the Israeli aggression. He reiterated Lebanon's clear-cut

decision to confront the Israeli attacks with all available means and to support the resistance's legitimate rights until the occupation ends.

Parliament Recommends Measures to Government

NC2707150693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Statement issued by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after a meeting of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committees in Beirut on 27 July—recorded]

[Text] This statement is issued by deputies who participated in the meeting of the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committees on 27 July 1993.

In light of the current events in Lebanon—especially in the south, western al-Biqa', and other areas of Lebanon—resulting from a large-scale Israeli aggressive action involving all types of land, air, and naval weapons, an aggressive action that has been unprecedented since the June 1982 invasion;

Out of a sense of national responsibility in this extremely grave period of time, which is threatening not only Lebanon's sovereignty and independence but also its existence and fate;

After hearing the statements made by the foreign and national defense ministers on this new aggression;

And following the opinions of many colleagues in this meeting, we recommend that the government take the following steps:

1. Express complete satisfaction with the existing unity in resisting the agressiove actions and emphasize full support for the Lebanese Army, the Syrian Arab Army, and the great resistance that is defending Lebanon's honor and the Arabs' dignity at this fateful turning point in the history of the conflict with Israel.

2. Keep the Chamber of Deputies, especially the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committees, in constant session to show the solidarity of all Lebanese with the issue of liberation and with their steadfast kinsmen in the south, western al-Biqa', and all the areas targeted by the aggressive action.

3. Declare a state of political, information, social, and health alert to confront the results of the Israeli aggressive actions and to entrust the Lebanese Army and all competent authorities to take the necessary steps to prevent Israel from emptying the south and western al-Biqa'.

4. Inform the U.S. Administration that it is useless to continue the negotiations after Israel has committed this aggressive action against Lebanon and that Lebanon must take a stand on these negotiations and do what is necessary to ensure the liberation of its territories and resist the aggression.

5. Condemn the statements issued by the U.S. Administration, the justifications given for the Israeli aggression, and the attempts to hold Lebanon and its people responsible for the violence in the region.

6. Ask the international forces in southern Lebanon to shoulder their responsibilities stipulated by the international resolutions, use their right to defend civilians, and protect the villages in their trust.

7. Affirm the unity of the Lebanese-Syrian stance regarding the Israeli aggression and the pressures applied on each of them, and take the necessary steps to raise the level of coordination between the two fraternal countries to one that guarantees their national and pan-Arab rights.

8. Insist that the UN Security Council and the Arab League meet immediately on ranking level. Lebanon retains its natural right to refer its case to the UN General Assembly.

9. Declare a state of general mobilization in the state administrations and institutions to quickly provide all forms of support for our people in the south and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi and to stop as much as possible the displacement of the people, which is the objective or method of implementing this great conspiracy against Lebanon.

I thank you.

[Correspondent] Mr. Speaker. Deputy Najah Wakim said that today's session was held at the request of the U.S. ambassador. How correct is this information?

[Birri] We say may God forgive him because this Chamber of Deputies does not receive any orders except from the deputies and abides by any decision made by the majority of them. Thank God that our principled stance on the negotiations was made known several days before the aggressive action. As for the Chamber of Deputies' session, today's session had been scheduled since 13 July, and its agenda of eight legislative items had been distributed. It is not reasonable for us to sit down and debate the laws and legislation while the walls of the south are being demolished in this manner. We made it our first priority—yesterday, at around 1700 or 1730, after consulting a large number of colleagues—to notify the deputies of the change in the session debate and called the National Defense and Foreign Affairs Committees to meet. The current speaker of the Chamber of Deputies is the last person to be accused of being liable to pressure either from the government, which I respect, or from the United States, which has taken a hostile stance toward us. Our colleague Najah is sometimes overwhelmed by his media ambitions.

[Correspondent] Mr. Speaker [words indistinct] to disarm Hizballah?

[Birri] What is happening now is that Israel is trying to use this excuse to cover up its aggressive actions. If one wants to believe 1 percent....[pauses] You have seen how the aggressive actions against Hizballah spread to the south, the Lebanese Army, and all the people. Hizballah, like other Lebanese, has the duty of defending its territory and confronting the occupation.

[Correspondent] The Israeli Army's chief of staff said that if the Lebanese Government does not disarm Hizballah, then Israel will do it?

[Birri] Completely, as they did in 1982, and disarmed the Palestinians by destroying Lebanon and occupying Beirut.

[Correspondent] That invasion was carried out with U.S. collusion, but can we today regard the Israeli aggression as a [words indistinct] decision?

[Birri] According to information, the preparations for this attack on Lebanon, and not on Hizballah at all, began immediately after the 10th round of the peace negotiations and before any operation by Hizballah.

Samahah Statement on Extraordinary Session

NC2707182693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1737 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The extraordinary cabinet session ended a short while ago. It convened at 1800 this evening under President Ilyas al-Hirawi with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and the ministers attending. The Council of Ministers studied the Israeli aggressive actions on Lebanese territories. It made a series of decisions, most important of which was to ask the Arab League secretary general to convene an emergency session of the Arab League Council on Saturday [31 July]. The Council of Ministers also formed a ministerial emergency committee that will hold its first meeting at 2200 this evening to follow up on the situation in the south. Information Minister Michel Samahah announced the following official information:

[Begin Samahah recording] The Council of Ministers held an extraorindary session this evening under the president. The council studied the Israeli aggression on Lebanese territories, which targeted southern Lebanon and some areas in the heart of our homeland. The council heard reports from the ministerial committee, which the Higher Defense Council yesterday entrusted with visiting the south today. It also heard reports from the ministers of defense and foreign affairs. After deliberations, the cabinet decided to entrust the foreign minister with immediately contacting the Arab League secretary general and asking him to call the Arab foreign ministers to convene a meeting on Saturday [31 July]. It also formed an emergency committee chaired by the deputy prime minister with the following ministers as members: health, defense, foreign affairs, social affairs, information, education, interior, housing and cooperatives, and the minister of state for financial affairs. This committee will convene at 2200 [1900 GMT] today to study the executive steps to support the steadfastness of our people in the south in the face of the continuing and oppressive Israeli aggressive action on our territory and people.

[Correspondent] The meeting of the foreign ministers in Beirut [words indistinct]?

[Samahah] It will be set through contacts between the foreign minister and the Arab League secretary general and the Arab foreign ministers.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, has the cabinet studied the parliamentary committee's recommendation of the futility of continuing with the peace talks?

[Samahah] The council of ministers studied the parlRamentary committee's recommendations and made the necessary decisions and proposals regarding all the recommendations and reports it studied and the ministers were entrusted with implementing them. The council of ministers will hold another session tomorrow afternoon under his excellency the president of the Republic in B'abda Palace.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, do the decisions include one on the Lebanese Army joining the battle on the side of the resistance?

[Samahah] The Lebanese Army is in fact at the center of the battle and is the best protector of the land and citizens wherever it is deployed. The Lebanese Government's decision from the time it was decided to deploy the Lebanese Army in the south is to confront any aggression carried out by Israel against any Lebanese territories where the army is legally deployed. This is what has happened during the Israeli aggression and this has been the case in every aggression against our territories and people in the south.

[Correspondent] The (?contacts) with Washington indicate that the Americans are unable to pressure Israel to stop the attacks but these contacts are continuing?

[Samahah] Contacts are being held. The U.S. secretary of state telephoned his excellency the prime minister before the council of ministers' session. The prime minister stressed to Secretary Christopher the Lebanese stance of rejecting bargaining over our rights to our lands and stressed that Lebanon regards Israel as an occupying force that is committing aggressive acts against the people, Lebanon's sovereignty, the Lebanese peace process in the country, and the legitimate Lebanese establishments. Secretary Christopher promised that he will hold contacts and confirmed that he had already made contacts to stop the aggressive acts.

[Correspondent] Has the U.S. ambassador [words indistinct]?

[Samahah] Thank you. [end recording]

Responding to a question on the outcome of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's visit to Damascus, Information Minister Samahah said:

[Begin recording] Prime Minister al-Hariri briefed the council of ministers on the outcome of his visit to Damascus this morning and his meeting with Syrian officials. We can assert that Lebanese-Syrian relations are distinguished and are particularly so at this stage. Syria stands by Lebanon as its main depth. Syria helps Lebanon defend its security and backs its independent decision making, restoration of its land and sovereignty, and implementation of UN resolutions through joint Lebanese-Syrian efforts regarding the negotiations and international contacts. Syria stands by Lebanon and offers all forms of support that Lebanon may currently need. Syria has always supported Lebanon in its efforts to restore and consolidate peace. [words indistinct] [end recording]

Emergency Committee Issues Statement

NC2807072893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Statement by Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr following a meeting of the Ministerial Emergency Committee on 27 July—recorded]

[Text] The Ministerial Emergency Committee, which has been formed by the Council of Ministers, has decided to adopt all necessary measures to face the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

After reviewing the situation, the committee members have unanimously decided:

1. Having been briefed by the representative of the Army command on the course of events for the day, the committee announces its appreciation for the Lebanese Army's patriotic role in defending the homeland and supporting the citizens' steadfastness;

2. To provide accommodations for those citizens forced to leave their villages and to provide them with logistical and health supplies. The committee has decided to establish a follow-up room to monitor the developments in the provinces of the south and al-Biqa'. This room will include representatives of the ministries of education and health and social affairs as well as representatives from the civil defense and army command;

3. To ensure the basic life supplies to all citizens who are standing fast in their villages. These supplies include food, medicines, and other provisions for daily living;

4. The Ministry of Health will cover 100 percent of the expenses for treating the victims of attacks in all hospitals in Lebanon;

5. To speed up the payment of compensation to the families of victims and those harmed by the attacks;

6. In order to ensure the safety of citizens and in light of military developments, all gatherings and demonstrations are completely banned throughout Lebanon. The security service and military forces are entrusted with implementing this decision; and

7. To ask all ministries to be on full alert to meet all daily life requirements and ensure the accommodation and support of steadfastness.

The committee will keep its meetings open and it will hold a session at 1300 tomorrow. Thank you.

Al-Hirawi Says Country United Against Aggression

NC2807103393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri at B'abda Palace this morning.

Speaking at a news conference afterwards, President al-Hirawi said that Lebanon is united in the face of the Israeli offensive. The wanton aggression, he said, is not due to rocket attacks. Its objective is to sabotage Lebanon's national unity and service economy. Al-Hirawi pledged continued efforts to revive the country.

President al-Hirawi said: The common suffering that we have been through in this country has made us brothers. Israel's attempts to undermine our resolve will not succeed. In 1982, some people welcomed the Israeli occupation, but today there is every sign that the country is united against those who want to undermine it.

President al-Hirawi said that the entire country is at the disposal of those who have fled from the south. He pointed out that Lebanon expects the Arabs and the international community to help it cope with its current ordeal and to seek an end to the blatant Israeli aggression.

Moves to B'abda Palace

NC2807075293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived at the Presidential Palace in B'abda at 0840 today to exercise his duties there for the first time since he assumed the presidency. The republican guard gave President al-Hirawi a salute as he entered B'abda Palace after the military parade scheduled for today was canceled because of the security develo'ments in the south.

Christopher Phones al-Hariri, Discusses Situation

NC2707155993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1534 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri was telephoned by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They discussed the grave developments in the south. They also discussed ways to calm the situation in the south.

Birri Blames U.S. for Israeli Aggression

NC2807095093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri said that the attacks of others on Lebanon will not end, describing the events in the south as an earthquake, a disaster, and a major crime of our time and all times.

Following his weekly meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi in B'abda Palace, Birri said that what is taking place is an attempt to destroy the south, its infrastructure, and the entire country.

The Chamber of Deputies speaker spoke about the myth of fighting Iran in Lebanon and the use of Hizballah as a pretext for the destruction of the South. All these are just excuses, he said. Calling for cohesion on the home front, Birri said: We will remain unshaken and rebuild the south as we rebuilt B'abda Palace.

Commenting on the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, scheduled for Friday [30 July] in Damascus, Birri expressed the hope that the Arabs would take a position commensurate with their past, if not recent, history. Birri said that Lebanon should file a complaint with the United Nations and call a session of the UN Security Council.

Birri reminded U.S. President Bill Clinton that most of those who are being shelled today had never accepted that U.S. civilians be harmed. Birri recalled that he personally intervened to resolve the crisis involving a U.S. passenger plane. Birri said that he believes that the weakness of the current U.S. Administration has fortified Israeli intransigence.

UN Envoy Calls On U.S. To Stop Israeli Attacks

NC2707173293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1628 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Dispatch from Washington Correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik—live]

[Text] Lebanon's permanent UN envoy Khalil Makkawi has denied reports that Lebanon has failed to convene a Security Council session to discuss the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon.

He told the Voice of Lebanon that, following the submission of the Lebanese request to the Security Council chairman, a date was set for a consultations session scheduled for 1715 yesterday, New York time. He added that the Lebanese mission was then preparing a draft resolution to be issued by the Security Council that will ask Israel to stop its military operations immediately and to implement Resolution 425. Makkawi said that a consultations session is normally followed by the official session. He stressed that the Council responded to the Lebanese request but, on the instructions of the Lebanese Government, the discussion of the issue was delayed for 24 hours in order to prepare the appropriate text of our demand to the Security Council.

On the reports that U.S. pressures prevented a follow-up of the Lebanese request, Makkawi told us that this is incorrect and that he has not heard anything of the sort from the U.S. circles. He added that Lebanon made its independent decision, which is dictated by its pan-Arab and national interest, and that it is not being pressured by anyone.

The 24 hours expire in a few hours and the Lebanese mission is waiting for new instructions from the government on what action to take next.

It is recalled that Lebanon was always rebuffed by the U.S. rejection whenever it asked the United Nations to condemn Israel for its aggressions against Lebanon. Is Lebanon expecting a different stance from the United States this time, especially as the U.S. Administration's stance on the recent events was clear in its criticism of Hizballah only and in holding the latter responsible for undermining the peace process? To this question, Makkawi said: So far, the United States is not opposed to a Security Council session. Therefore, it should uphold its role as a state responsible for international peace and security and stop these aggressive actions that violate the UN charter and international law.

Foreign Minister on Security Council Complaint

NC2707221593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Remarks by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in response to questions by unidentified correspondents following a meeting of the Chamber of Deputies' Arab Affairs, Defense, and Security Committee in Beirut on 27 July—recorded]

[Text] Written instructions were given yesterday to Lebanon's permanent delegation to the United Nations to lodge a complaint with and to call for a meeting of the Security Council. So far, these clear, frank, and written instructions still stand.

[Correspondent] It is being said that there is a U.S. request from Lebanon to postpone this meeting?

[Buwayz] I personally have not been informed of such a request. In all cases, I confirm that the written instructions sent to the permanent delegation still remain in force.

[Correspondent] Do you hold the (?United States) responsible for obstructing [words indistinct]

[Buwayz] Of course. We expected the Security Council, even before now, to assume its role in implementing Resolution 425. What we see today is nothing but the result of the failure of the international community, particularly the Security Council, to give the necessary credibility to the resolutions it adopts, which are stacked in the halls of the United Nations. We said yesterday that

the credibility of any international quarter and the credibility of the Security Council and the United States are on the line. What is happening today in Lebanon, following the so-called changes in international balances and the arrangements for a new world order, is very close to a new international state of chaos and is a sign of the absence of international responsibility for what is happening in the Middle East region, particularly in Lebanon. This Israeli act of aggression, as we assessed it from the very first moments, is neither in reaction to resistance operations nor to other field actions. This operation is a premeditated operation with clear political objectives related to the visit of the U.S. secretary of state. The objective is to highlight the security issue at the expense of the political substance, as well as the implementation of the UN resolutions.

[Correspondent] How much do you hold the United States responsible for what is happening?

[Buwayz] We believe that as a major and influential country, the United States has a primary and basic responsibility toward moving the United Nations and the Security Council, as it did in other countries when the Security Council resolutions were related to U.S. interests. We believe that international justice is indivisible and that the credibility of the international resolutions is indivisible. Either they are applied wherever they may be and under all circumstances, or we admit once and for all that there is no room for applying the resolutions and that there is no room for terms of reference....

[Correspondent, interrupting] There is an Israeli warning to people to evacuate Tyre and Sidon. Do you expect an Israeli warning against Beirut too?

[Buwayz] We fully realize that the situation is serious. As I have already stated, we believe that this operation has deep political objectives, more than just being a reaction to a certain incident or similar acts. However, the international media so far is giving the wrong impression and is depicting the operation as a response to Lebanese resistance operations.

Hizballah Leader Sends Reply Cable to Khamene'i

NC2707174393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has sent a reply cable to Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, thanking him on behalf of our resisting people, all mujahidin, and the families of martyrs for his consistent paternal care of this oppressed and persecuted part of the Islamic nation. The Islamic nation has always been a source of high morale and inspiration for the mujahidin in the cause of God and fighters for freedom and righteousness.

Nasrallah said that the usurper entity's brutal and barbaric aggressive acts against our towns, villages, and homes in various parts of Lebanon—especially the Jabal 'Amil area and western al-Biqa'—provides new evidence of the Zionists' aggressive and bestial nature and of their weakness and inability to wage direct field confrontationic mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance. These heroes throng the front lines in preparation for the battle of honor and dignity and defense of lofty Islam and nation, and all oppressed people in Lebanon.

Nasrallah said that our people are today more aware and vigilant as a result of this continuing aggression, which exposes the false claims of the great satan—America—that it is an advocate of peace and is an honest broker in solving disputes. The United States, he said, is justifying the Israeli aggression and condemning our people and mujahidin who are defending their land, lives, and sanctities. He again vowed to Khamene'i and to all revolutionaries and free men that we will remain the vanguard of jihad in the face of the arrogant occupiers. Our willpower will remain too strong for the killers of prophets. We will remain loyal to the line of our beloved Imam Khomeyni and to the blood of the resistance martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi. We will pursue the path of God.

Vows To Continue Resistance

NC2707213893 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2050 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon has reported that Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah this evening made in inspection tour of the party's positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah. Speaking to reporters in Sidon, Nasrallah said: We have to foil the enemy's objectives and goals. We do not know how long the military operation will last, but we know that we will foil it. He added: Israel's scheme is to cause a rift between us and both the state and the people. They want to hold us responsible for the destruction and murder, but they do not know that the people are protecting us. He added: If Israel manages to achieve its goal of abrogating the resistance, which it will not be able to do, this means an abrogation of Lebanon. He emphasized that the resistance option will continue.

Hizballah Source Calls Israeli Operation Failure

NC2707153493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] A senior Hizballah source has stressed that the confrontation with the Zionist entity will continue and that the enemy has failed to achieve his goals. He stressed that the ongoing Zionist aggression will not solve the enemy's security problem, noting that the attacks on villages and destruction of homes will not prevent the continuation of the resistance operations. He said that the resistance is not waging a war of outposts, because it exists in all areas and its operations will not be confined to bombarding villages. The Zionist aggressive acts has led to a massive popular and official rally around the goals of the resistance. Everyone now emphasizes that the resistance's jihad call is sound.

Hizballah Official Denounces French Stand on Attack

NC2707200293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1652 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] In response to French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe's statement, a Hizballah official source made the following statement: At a time when the French Foreign Ministry statement tried to demonstrate some balance in its position on the oppressive Zionist aggressive action against Lebanon, its villages, and people, Juppe's statement completely torpedoed any possibility of a balanced, wise, and unbiased French policy. The source wondered about the values and principles to which the French Government claims to cling, values and principles that stand by the victim against the aggressor. He asked about the French position on the Zionist occupation of parts of Lebanese territories.

The source said that Juppe's statement, which public opinion loathes because it is devoid of truth, is a disgrace for French policy that does not seem to stem from national principles and interests. This policy revolves around a U.S. orbit, disregarding France's international responsibility. The source calls on the French people to seek the truth because they are able to understand the nature of the Lebanese people's suffering under occupation and aggression and their right to resist, because they encountered painful experiences in confronting occupation and aggression. Let denunciation of Juppe's statement be commensurate with the freedom that the French people enjoy.

The source asked if Juppe believes that Israel, which is an occupying force, is now practicing self-defense, as the U.S. position and Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement maintain. What a self-defense that stems from the occupation of the land of others, expansion, escalation of aggression, bombardment, destruction, and eviction of people. The source said that the worst thing in Juppe's position, which is similar to the U.S. flagrant and biased one, is that it attempts to appease the Zionist party. He noted that Juppe's and the U.S. Administration's positions complement the Zionist aggression.

Amal: Raid Prompted By U.S.-European Decision

NC2807112593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has said in a statement to our radio that what is happening is the result of an arrogant U.S.-European decision, targeting Islam and all those who believe in one God. Al-Musawi added: This is a battle between Islam and atheism, whose aims are exposed. No sensible person can look on a in battle that is raging between right and wrong.

He noted that America favors the negotiations to achieve peace for greater Israel at the expense of our rights, waters, and creed. We denounced these negotiations when they started and we denounce them now. We reject anything that will make us lose our present and future. He also noted that one of the results of the negotiations with the enemy is that our dignity, resources, and decisions will fall under American hegemony. What we are paying now is much less than what we will have to pay if we depend on those who are treating us unjustly.

Palestinian Group Threatens Retaliation

NC2707153893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The military spokesman of the Islamic Revolutionary Army for the Liberation of Palestine [al-jaysh al-thawri al-islami li tahrir Filastin] has called on the Palestinian camps and fighters of the Palestinian groups to carry arms and support the Islamic Resistance mujahidin in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa'. In a statement made today, he said that the Revolutionary Army groups will raid Zionist settlements to retaliate for the bombardment of the civilian population in the Palestinian camps and south Lebanese villages. He noted that the blood of our children shed by the enemy's aircraft, gunboats, and artillery will cost him dearly. He said that these suicidal groups will achieve their goals inside the enemy's military and residential areas.

Officials Confer on Israeli Bombing of Lebanon

Christopher Phones Al-Shar'

JN2707164993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher today called Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' from Singapore. They talked about the ominous military escalation in Lebanon and the risks it carries for the peace process.

Al-Shar' on Future of Peace Talks

JN2807092693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] In a statement to the French newspaper LIBERATION, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stressed that Syria is not ready to resume the [Arab-Israeli] talks under the threat of Israeli guns. Asked if Syria intends to withdraw from the talks with Israel because of the Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon, al-Shar' noted that this decision depends on developments on the ground, Syrian and Lebanese public opinion, and the reaction of the United States as a sponsor of the Middle East talks.

Cabinet Discusses Attack's Impact

JN2707162993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] At 1100 today, the Cabinet met under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi to discuss the premedidated Israeli aggression on Lebanon and its broader regional repercussions. The council concluded that the attacks on innocent civilians and the devastation they have wrought throughout Lebanon underscore Israel's intransigence and the absence of an Israeli interest in peace. The council saw in the ongoing aggression a serious threat to the peace process—putting the region in a climate incompatible with a global orientation to douse flashpoints and sort out disputes in line with international legitimacy and UN resolutions. The council viewed the aggression as being against not just Lebanon, Syria and the Arabs, but against international legitimacy and UN resolutions and an international community aspiring to peace and stability in the region.

The cabinet reiterated Syria's support for brotherly Lebanon and its people and their adherence to their rights and land.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', meanwhile, told the cabinet that Syria had initiated Arab and international contacts to expose the aims of the aggression, bring about its termination, and point out its potential impact on the peace process.

The cabinet then moved to a review of the work of the services, economic, and cultural committees. It also considered topics listed on its agenda and made relevant decisions.

Israeli Operation in Lebanon 'Disgrace to Humanity'

JN2807080893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0455 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Disgraceful Aggression," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Without saying anything in advance, we say unemotionally that the large-scale barbaric, cowardly aggression against Lebanon—which has been continuing for three days and has so far resulted in the death or injury of dozens of people, the destruction of dozens of houses, and the displacement of over 120,000 Lebanese citizens from their homes and villages—is a disgrace to humanity, the international community, and the United States in particular, because it is fully responsible for any action by Tel Aviv.

AL-THAWRAH explains: Using sophisticated U.S. weapons, the Israeli rulers and professional criminal war masters are killing people in Lebanon in broad daylight and burying peace under the debris of destroyed houses as result of the bombardment and fire of hatred. Meanwhile, the UN Security Council, the initiators of peace efforts and initiatives, and the advocates of the new world order who proclaimed themselves trustees in charge of the world and world peace are turning a blind eye and keeping silent.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Such double standards lead us to the fact that had there been a serious effort to implement the international legitimacy resolutions on the Middle East crisis and to force the usurpers and occupiers to abide by them, and had Israel felt at any moment that it is without protection, cover, and support, and that it is accountable to international law, its politicians would not have been able to persist in their aggressive and reckless policy. Nor would they have maintained their occupation of Arab territories. Also, its rulers would have thought a thousand times before considering the launching of aggression, the plundering of others' territory, the killing of defenseless citizens, and continuing their defiance of the will for peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Rabin's aggressive message to the United States and the world can lead to all possibilities and dangers. Unless the aggression is countered with the required firmness and vigor before it is too late, and unless Israel is forced to comply with international resolutions, there will be no room for peace nor will there be a single chance for Christopher's expected tour to succeed. This aggressive message will only bring Israel hatred and push the region into a destructive cycle of violence and confrontation.

TISHRIN also comments on the Israeli military attacks on Lebanon. After reviewing the effects of the brutal aggression against the south and al-Biqa', the paper says: We believe that the name [Operation] Accountability is

fitting. This is because this aggression, which is supervised by the Labor and Likud leaders, is truly a settlement of scores with the Arabs in general and the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in particular, and with the peace process. This aggression is also aimed at avenging the abortive 1982 invasion, following which Israel was forced to withdraw from Lebanon without achieving any political gains and to concentrate its forces in the occupied part of southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: When Israel sets southern Lebanon ablaze and uses U.S. weapons to serve its destructive, brutal purposes, it deals a blow to the U.S. initiative and Christopher's tour. Israel may derail the peace process if the international community, and the United States in particular, do not adopt a firm, deterrent position that brings an end to the Israeli aggression.

Israeli Raids Render U.S. Mission 'Meaningless'

JN2707153793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel's wicked aggression on Lebanon is being described by some observers as the most extensive and serious since the 1982 invasion. They note that—deploying air, land, and sea firepower—it has targeted more than 50 villages and hamlets, leaving behind considerable human and material losses.

Israeli officials revealed yesterday that the aggression had been in the works for months. Thus, its implementation was waiting for a pretext to cover up the true aims of the aggression, that is, to deal a blow to the peace process on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour in a bid to salvage the peace process.

Not coincidentally, the Israeli aircraft raids hit some Syrian positions. The Rabin government reckons that heating things up and bringing the situation to a head will serve to put an end to the fair and full partner role pledged by the United States. Israel wants the United States to be its full partner in aggression, but not a full and fair partner in the cause of peace. This is because fairness calls for doing justice by the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, terminating Israeli occupation of Arab territory, and making Tel Aviv's rulers respect UN resolutions and the international community.

The bestial Israeli raids that are taking a heavy toll of the lives, property, and livelihood of the Lebanese are also directed at the peace process and Christopher's peace mission. Considering the devastating impact of the attacks on 50 Lebanese villages and hamlets, the bombing of Palestinian refugee camps, the displacing of tens of thousands of innocent civlians, the mounting casualty tolls, and the barbarity with which Israel deals with defenseless Lebanese, how can a single Arab give any credence to the Tel Aviv rulers' protestations of concern about peace or hope that they may eventually comply with international law?

Two unavoidable questions arise: How can a convincing case be made for the virtual devastation of the security of an entire people—in this case the Lebanese people—wreaked merely to enhance the security of a military force occupying part of their country? How can a convincing case be made for an Israeli interest in future peaceful relations with a country whose villages and hamlets and innocent population are now on the receiving end of such savage attacks?

Israel just does not want peace. It is as if, through its ongoing sinful aggression on Lebanon, Israel is sending the message to the Arabs and the world that peace in the region, or Israel's abstention from aggression, is subject to the Arabs abdicating their rights and the Palestinians and Lebanese acquiescing to Israeli occupation.

Under the circumstances, Warren Christopher's impending mission becomes meaningless. If Israel perpetrates all these outrages in broad daylight and in full view of the international community, and if it ominously flouts UN resolutions, without the slightest regard for any potential UN Security Council sanctions, will it submit to UN resolutions that explicitly call for its withdrawal from occupied territory and a reversal of policies promoting deportations, land annexation, Judaization, and settlement? Will it go along with the kind of peace under which it will be required to recognize rights, surrender occupied territory, and allow the return of hordes of refugees and displaced and deported people to their homes?

Israel could be counted on to block whatever peace openings there were over the past 20 months, with none of the Washington rounds of talks making any headway. Israel has offered the Arabs peace in exchange for its own security. The Zionist idea of security, which manifests itself on a daily basis, is to attack Arab targets, destroy Arab property, drive Arabs from their homes, and aggress on their sanctities.

It is not surprising that Sharon, Shamir, and Netanyahu should all gather at the headquarters of military operations, and then travel to occupied south Lebanon to keep track of developments of the aggression on the Lebanese and Palestinians and the Israeli attempts to provoke Syrian forces. The shared objective of the trio is to see the peace process and international law receive a fatal blow, and to convince the United States that the role of full, fair partner to which it has pledged itself has no place in the Middle East, where only Israel's law of the jungle applies.

If Israel's raids disrupt the peace efforts, they will certainly not dent the steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples or Syria's resolve to regain Arab territory and rights in full.

Russia's Posuvalyuk Calls on Foreign Minister al-Shar'

Delivers Message From Moscow

JN2707180893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from the Russian leadership stating the country's interest in developed and expanded ties with Syria. The message was communicated by Mr. Viktor Posuvalyuk, director general of the Middle East and North Africa desk at the Russian Foreign Ministry, when he called on Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening.

Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Zotov attended the meeting, during which the two sides discussed international developments, the Middle East peace process, and the ongoing Israeli aggression on Lebanon and its implications for the peace process. They also looked into ways to reinforce bilateral ties.

Khaddam, Posuvalyuk on Israeli 'Aggression'

JN2807114393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] At 1030 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Viktor Posuvalyuk, director general of the Middle East and North Africa Desk at the Russian Foreign Ministry. The Russian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The talks, during the meeting, dealt with the international and regional situation, the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and its repercussions on the peace process. Bilateral relations were also discussed.

Afghanistan

Cabinet Discusses 'Important' Political, Border Issues

LD2707183693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] A cabinet meeting chaired by Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar was held this morning in Charasiab. Necessary decisions were made on various political, military, and administrative matters.

The news department of the Prime Ministry told BIA that political and border questions important to the Islamic state of Afghanistan were thoroughly discussed at today's session. The cabinet reached a decision on these questions, which will be implemented after it is submitted to the Islamic State President's Office.

In order to avoid administrative problems in state ministries and official departments, it was decided that the last law of state officials and the last [word indistinct] and bill should be in force until an assigned delegation drafts and approves new authorizations.

Foreign Minister Appeals to UN for Aid in Drug Campaign

LD2707211193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala sent the following letter recently to UN Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali concerning the campaign against drugs:

To Your Excellency, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, secretary general of the United Nations, New York. Your Excellency, today human society and world public opinion are concerned more than ever about the illegal increase, handling and trafficking, and unpermitted use of drugs. Unfortunately, the spread of this ruinous plague increases and expands every day. In accordance with Islamic tenets and the laws enforced in this country, and in observance of international conventions, the Islamic State of Afghanistan has set up a high state commission to campaign against drugs. This commission envisions taking serious measures in cooperation with all national and international organizations working against this fatal phenomenon.

I remind you that in the 5 June 1993 letter sent to you by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, it is requested that United Nations and the International Board for the Control of Drugs offer more help than in the past to the Islamic State of Afghanistan, at this special juncture, in its campaign against drugs under the international conventions of 1961, 1971, and 1988. [passage omitted]

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has always supported the efforts of the international community aimed at preventing the production, smuggling, and illegal use of drugs and we again express our willingness to cooperate with the neighboring countries of the region and the world in this respect. I take this opportunity to renew my great respect for you and to wish you good health.

Bangladesh

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia Pledge $120 Million in Assistance

BK2307142193 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Bangladesh will receive more than $120 million in assistance from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Islamic Development Bank. Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said this to newsmen at Dhaka International Airport this morning after returning from his visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He described the visits as extremely successful.

During his stay in Saudi Arabia, Saifur Rahman held fruitful talks with the Saudi finance minister. He said that Saudi Arabia will provide financial assistance amounting to $100 million to Bangladesh. Of this ammount, $30 million will be spent for the purchase of railway engines and cars; $30 million will be utilized for completing construction work on the Teesta Dam; $20 million will be spent for bridge construction; and the remaining $20 million will be used for implementing rural electrification projects.

The finance minister added that Saudi Arabia has given its consent for building the Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia Friendship Bridge over the Dhaleswari River. Riyadh has also agreed to extend assistance for modernizing and expanding work on the Eastern Refinery located in Chittagong.

In Jeddah, the finance minister signed an agreement with the Islamic Development Bank. Under this agreement, the bank will provide $20 million in assistance for constructing link roads in Sylhet and Mymensingh, and implementing a rural electrification project in Faridpur.

Saifur Rahman said the amir of Kuwait told him that Kuwait will provide the extensive financial assistance needed for irrigation, power, and rural electrification projects in Bangladesh. As a symbol of the excellent friendship between the two brotherly Muslim countries, Kuwait will provide assistance for constructing a conference center in Dhaka. The finance minister said that the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, recalled the visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to Kuwait and conveyed his greetings to her. He also extended his thanks to Bangladesh for the support given during the Gulf war.

In Kuwait, the finance minister also met the Bangladesh Army team working there.

India

No-Confidence Debate Continues in Parliament

Vote Expected 28 Jul

BK2807075693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] The discussion on the no-confidence motion against the government moved by Mr. Ajay Mukhopadhyay, CPI-M [Communist party of India-Marxist], has resumed in the Lok Sabha. Mr. P.G. Narayanan, AIADMK [All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] said the government has failed to fulfill the promises given to the people. He alleged that the administration has become inefficient and corruption has assumed international dimensions. Mr. Narayanan accused the center of withdrawing from its promises made to the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha, on the release of Cauvery water to the state. He also charged the prime minister with engaging in a political gain and demanded resignation of the water resources minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, if the promise of setting up monitoring and implementation committee is not fulfilled. This evoked sharp reaction from the Congress-I members who demanded that the member should either substantiate the charge or withdraw it. Mr. Narayanan was still speaking when reports last came in.

Before the beginning of the debate, the speaker announced that the prime minister, M. P.V. Narasimha Rao, will intervene around 1700 [1130 GMT] today, and voting on the motion will take place after the mover replies.

CPI-M Cites Reasons for Vote

BK2807032893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] The voting on the opposition sponsored motion of no confidence in the Narasimha Rao government takes place in the Lok Sabha today after the prime minister give his reply to the two-day debate.

There has been intense political activity in the capital in the wake of the Janata Dal-Ajit decision to vote against the government. Several senior Congress-I leaders including Mr. Sharad Pawar and Mr. Karunakaran are in New Delhi holding discussions. As already reported, the motion of no confidence by Mr. Ajay Mukhopadhyay of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] expresses lack of faith in the government saying it is surrendering before the IMF. It also says that the government has failed to take action against those responsible for the Ayodhya incident.

Congress-I Confident on Vote

BK2707125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpts] In an important development, the Janata Dal-Ajit parliamentary party has decided to support the no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government in the Lok Sabha. Announcing this to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party president, Mr. Ajit Singh, said that a whip has been issued to its 20 MP's to vote in favor of the motion tomorrow. He said the decision has been taken unanimously in a meeting of the party this afternoon, which was attended by 19 MP's after deliberations for about three hours. He said Mr. Arjun Yadav, MP, was not present in the meeting because of illness. [passage omitted]

The Congress-I has expressed the confidence that the no-confidence motion moved by the opposition will be defeated by 30 to 40 votes. The party spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chandrarkar, expressed this opinion at the news briefing today.

Further on 27 Jul Debate

LK2707163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The Janata Dal-Ajit parliamentary party has decided to support the no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government in the Lok Sabha. Announcing this to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party president, Mr. Ajit Singh, said a whip has been issued to its 20 MP's to vote in favor of the motion tomorrow. He said the decision has been taken unanimously at a meeting this afternoon which was attended by 19 MP's after deliberations for about three hours. He said Mr. Arjun Yadav, MP, was not present at the meeting because of illness. Later, in a statement, the Janata Dal-Ajit spokesman, Mr. Sunil Shastri, said there need not be a midterm poll if the no-confidence motion is passed by the Lok Sabha. He said the president has all the powers to invite anyone to form a new government who can muster the required strength.

The opposition in the Lok Sabha today blamed the government for rampant corruption in the administration, while the Congress-I members cautioned that any vote of no confidence will short-circuit the nation's economic recovery. They were participating in the resumed debate on the no-confidence motion moved by Mr. Ajay Mukhopadhyay, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist].

The house witnessed acrimonious scenes and heated exchanges during the debate. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, who led the attack on the government, said that corruption is again on top of the national agenda. He said the government cannot inspire confidence for bringing about a change in the system as its credibility is low. The country is neck-deep in debt and domestic industry is facing closures. Disputing the claims of the government on its performance on the economic front, Mr. Vajpayee said people's expectations of stability have not been fulfilled.

Stoutly defending the achievements of the government, Mr. P. Chidambaram, Congress-I, said the performance

is creditable and the process should be allowed to continue. He charged the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] of trying to grab power by cashing in on communalism. The National Front [and] Left Parties should consider whether it is the patriotic duty to defeat the Congress-I to enable the BJP to gain power, he said. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M, charged the government with failure in maintaining secularism and indulging in open support to the forces of religious fundamentalism. He said that Congress-I lacks a sense of direction and commitment to meet the aspirations of the people. He said a timely check could have prevented the securities scam and the Bofors deal.

Rebutting the charges, Mr. P.C. Chako, Congress-I, described the no-confidence motion as an unholy alliance between the communal forces and the left to thwart the government's economic policy. A former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, demanded the setting up of a joint parliamentary committee to inquire into the Bofors gun deal. He also demanded action against those whose names figured in the Swiss court and attachment of the properties in India and impounding of the passports. Amidst repeated interruptions, he alleged that a lot of favoritism has been done in the disinvestment of public sector shares.

Mr. Sulaiman Sait, IUML [Indian Union Muslim League], came heavily on the government for its failure to prevent the Ayodhya incident. He charged the government of being a silent spectator to the tragedy and said that in spite of assurances given by the prime minister the demolished structure was not rebuilt.

The house witnessed acrimonious scenes when Mr. Jagdish Tytler, minister for surface transport, charged the opposition of misleading the house in the Cargill Company issue. He said no decision has been taken to give land of the Kandla Port Trust to the company. Mr. P.J. Narayanan, AIADMK [All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] rose to speak in support of the motion, but heated exchanges followed between AIADMK and Congress-I members. The house was then adjourned. The discussion will continue tomorrow.

Minister Comments on Nuclear Energy Potential

BK2407093293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. K.P. Singh Deo, has emphasized the need to harness nuclear energy for developmental activities. Inaugurating a seminar on nuclear power's impact on energy, environment and economy in New Delhi today, he said India has large reserves of raw material, like uranium, indigenous technology, and potential to meet at least 10 percent of our energy requirements. He said the use of nuclear energy assumes special importance as it is most environment-friendly source of energy. Mr. Deo said that India has one of the best safety standards of nuclear plant and efforts should be made to allay public fear regarding this.

In his keynote address, the former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. P.K. Iyengar, outlined the nuclear energy scenario in the country and related issues.

Outgoing Air Force Chief on Combat-Readiness

BK2607142593 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 11 Jul 93 p 7

[By special correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, 10 July—After remarkable service spanning 41 years and four months, the retiring Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal Nirmal Chandra Suri, is very confident about the offensive and strike capabilities of the Indian Air Force. "We are fully capable of facing any challenge," he said.

Talking informally to defense correspondents before his retirement, the outgoing Air Force chief said "whatever the obstacles and hurdles in our way, we will not lower our combat-readiness and vigilance." Speaking of discontinuities in the supply of Russian arms and spares and the limitations put on the defense budget in the last few years, the air chief marshal was firm: "We never compromised on these matters. We never lowered our vigilance, not even for a moment."

Air Chief Suri will retire on 31 July. The Air Force went through an unprecedented crisis during his tenure as chief marshal. Following the disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union, the supply of spares for Russian aircraft and missiles became highly sporadic. At the same time, the country faced a severe foreign exchange crunch. In spite of this dual blow, the Air Force not only remained self-sufficient, it even maintained a high profile. Responding to questions, the air chief said, "as far as the question of Air Force modernization is concerned, it is not possible unless you have two options. First, you should have a sophisticated domestic arms industry; second, the country must possess adequate fiscal means."

If the country does not have either of these, is it possible to modernize the Air Force? The air chief answered affirmatively: "In fact, the Air Force is always based on the most modern technology. But this modern technology in turn is highly dependent on the 'talent' of those in the Air Force." During his tenure the Air Force chief paid utmost attention to this aspect—"to developing the expertise of those who manage and maintain weaponry."

The Air Force chief says: "Only 10 to 12 percent of the Air Force budget is spent on salaries and allowances; the Army spends half of its budget on wages. The remaining portion of the Air Force budget is spent on maintaining its weapons. That is why we have to maintain optimum capability in this field. We put full emphasis on maintaining a balance between man and machine and have achieved many successes in this field. In fact, the Air

Force can fulfill its obligations only through team spirit. The Air Force cannot rely on somebody's whimsical instructions."

The Air Force chief says that the Indian Air Force is unique in the sense that no other Air Force in the world has so many different kinds of aircraft and weapons systems. The overall maintenance of all this equipment is definitely a big headache, but the Air Force carries out the task admirably. In fact, the Air Force started diversifying its arms purchases during the late eighties. High-flying Jaguar fighter aircraft were acquired from Britain. Then, Mirage-2000's were purchased from France. It was decided as far back as the early eighties that it would be disadvantageous to make the Air Force 100 percent dependent on one country. That is why it is incorrect to say that India was not prepared to face an event like the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Regarding the current situation in the Air Force, the air chief says "we can say with confidence that as of now we have full expertise. But how long this situation will last, I cannot say. However, I am very optimistic after seeing the way the Defense Ministry understood the gravity of the situation."

About the frequent crashes of Indian Air Force fighter aircraft during training sorties, Suri said efforts have been made to establish complete harmony between "man and machine." Suri regrets that in India the best talent does not come forward for service in the Indian Air Force, while in the United States and Europe the best 3 percent of a talented youth apply to become fighter pilots. In fact, Indian youths do not receive complete knowledge about different techniques right from the beginning. For example, a Mirage-2000 has 22 types of computers. A thorough knowledge of all this is required because a pilot does not only fly a plane, he must supervise an integrated system at the same time. It is imperative to create technological awareness right from the beginning among our youths if they are going to fly planes with such complicated systems.

Explaining the different phases involved during the flight training of pilots, the air chief said that Indian pilots trained on subsonic aircraft are immediately given the duty of flying supersonic aircraft. This is comparable to someone receiving a doctorate degree without first completing postgraduate courses.

Due to a lack of funds, Indian pilots do not receive the third stage of training on Advanced Jet Trainers as is done in Western nations. The air chief said the need for this aircraft has been stressed ever since the mid-eighties. Additionally, Indian Air Force pilots are flying aircraft which are 20 to 30 years old. These difficulties plus the problem of bird-plane collisions are all causes of aircraft crashes. In this context the air chief expressed hope that the fiscal position of the Air Force would improve and that the pilots would have access to better training facilities.

Two Kashmir Army Officers Reportedly Killed; 18 Kidnapped

BK2707144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir say two Indian Army officers have been killed and 18 troops kidnapped by mojahedin. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], Army officers Narin Singh and A.L. Biswas were killed in clashes with mojahedin in (Kakserai) and Rajaorikadal. Large quantity of arms and ammunition and a wireless set were also captured by mojahedin after a clash in Doda District. Indian occupation forces intensified their brutal siege-and-search operation following the killing of the Army officers. The increased harassment and intimidation of Kashmiris by Indian troops infuriated the people who came out on the streets against the brutalities of occupation forces. Clashes between mojahedin and Indian troops have been reported from Anantnag- Islamabad, Kupwara, Sopor, and Baramula with casualties on both sides. Bodies of three Kashmiris have been recovered from various places who are believed to have been tortured by Indian troops.

Rao Briefs Parliament on Russian Rocket Engine Deal

BK2807090293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] India will have discussions with Russia on the cryogenic engine deal soon. Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha today, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said that a Russian team is coming to hold consultations with the Indian Government on the future course of action regarding the agreement. He said Russia has not scrapped the contract. There was a clause in the contract which compelled Russia under the special circumstances to express its inability to fulfill further its obligations regarding the transfer of technology and production equipment. The prime minister stressed the need to further develop the country's capability in this field.

Replying to supplementaries, the minister of state for science and technology, Mr. P. Kumaramangalam, said that the development of indigenous technology will need some additional time and money.

Spokesman Asks Israel, Lebanon To End Violence

BK2707161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] India has called upon both Israel and Lebanon to desist from provocations and use of force from across the international borders. In a statement in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said India deplores the escalation of violence across the Israel-Lebanon border.

Paper Questions U.S. Sincerity In Curbing Terrorism

BK2707100593 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 17 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan Has Been Acquitted"]

[Text] At last, America has said that Pakistan is a very good boy and it will not be dubbed a terrorist state. The United States is of the opinion that Iraq and Iran are very mischievous, but that Pakistan is not. The statement by the Ministry of External Affairs spokesman on this subject indicates that the Indian Government is not happy with the U.S. announcement. In the past few days, some junior U.S. officials had hinted that Pakistan would be declared a terrorist state. Many Indian officials, including ministers, expressed delight. Now it appears that the United States was only trying to fool New Delhi. Washington never intended to corner Pakistan.

It is obvious that the United States would determine its own policy toward Pakistan. Washington does not need to bother with others' feelings. But still some questions remain. How sincere is the United States about halting state-sponsored terrorism? We have seen that Libya, Iraq, and Iran were condemned for pursuing terrorism. How was Pakistan exempted by the United States when it indulges in such activities? New Delhi has alleged that Pakistan is involved in the terrorist activities of Punjab and Kashmir. It has blamed Pakistan for training and arming militants and has said that Pakistan is behind the Bombay blasts. New Delhi has cited evidence to prove its charges against Pakistan, and America has gathered ample proof in this regard. America is also aware that there is a link between the illegal arms trade and drug smuggling. In his recent statement, the U.S. secretary of state has said that the decision to acquit Pakistan of the charge of terrorism had been made after a marked reduction in the assistance given by Pakistan to terrorists of Punjab and Kashmir. Thus Washington has acknowledged that Pakistan was abetting terrorism in these states, but now there has been a reduction in the degree of its involvement. This proves that New Delhi's allegations against Islamabad are true. Apart from this, the annual report of the U.S. State Department published last year says that Pakistan is abetting secessionist movements in Kashmir and Punjab.

India should not become overly enthusiastic when any U.S. official makes some favorable statement. Neither should it become infuriated when they make unpleasant remarks. The country's policy should be formulated according to its own interests. The United States is in an advantageous position in the present international situation. It will not be able to get rid of the ability it has developed to throw its weight around in different places. India also has reasons to be self-confident. It should take credit for the improvement of the situation in Punjab and Kashmir. Neither the United States nor any other country deserves credit for this. With the cooperation of the state governments, the central government has improved the situation in these states. This has been possible because the people of these states are cooperating with the government.

U.S. 'Blatant Posture' Over Cargill Affair Protested

BK2807045393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Jul 93 p 8

[Editorial: "US Flag Over Cargill"]

[Text] The gung-ho reaction of the United States embassy in India to the damage inflicted by agitated farmers to the 600 square feet toilet block at the factory site of Cargill Seeds India Ltd at Bellary will be viewed with alarm in this country. True, the company is a subsidiary of the US giant Cargill Inc, which not only owns 51 per cent of its equity but has total control on technology; but the subsidiary, established under Indian law, is an Indian company. The protection of Cargill India's property, on par with the property of all other Indian entities, is the concern of the Government in this country, and of no one else. But the US embassy, oblivious of propriety, has chosen to assert that enterprises of American origin have the backing of the US flag, and described the Bellary protest as an "extremely unfortunate" incident. It has pointed out (that is, threatened) that Bellary will have ominous consequences on the inflow of foreign (read American) investment into India.

To be sure, vandalism must be condemned in the strongest terms, and stern action taken under the law against the Bellary agitationists and their leaders. But the US embassy has gratuitously gone on to urge the Karnataka government to take expeditious action against the agitators. The reminder was served even as the agitationists were being arrested and police bandobust [security arrangements] tightened. Obviously, the US embassy is not satisfied with the response of the Karnataka government, for this is not the first time that Cargill India has attracted the ire of the state's farmers. Logically, then, the US embassy's next step will be to ask the Centre to dismiss the State Government! This is perhaps not feasible as yet, but will be once a dozen Cargills are established. The alarming prospect of India becoming a banana republic is presaged by the blatant posture adopted by the American embassy.

But why have farmers been driven to agitate in such deplorable fashion? The leader of the agitationists, M. D. Nanjunda Swamy, has said that the seed multinationals (no other, mind you, not the soft drink, not the computer, not the engineering multinationals but only the seed multinationals) exploit farmers. It is open to Cargill India to dispel the fear and win over the farmers, their customers. The commercial failure of the company to do so is at the bottom of the agitation. So, whatever happened to the much-touted American adage that rule number one, the customer is always right, and rule

number two, if a company thinks the customer is wrong, it should go back to rule number one? Surely, it is not the business of the American embassy to point this out to Cargill India or its parent; by the same token, it should not seek to influence the farmer-Cargill tussle in favour of the latter with threats of inhibiting US investment; nor should it use Bellary as an excuse to ram the Dunkel-conferred 'rights' of seed monopolists down this country's throat.

Commodity Exchange Accord Signed With Bangladesh

BK2707041093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] India and Bangladesh have signed a commodity exchange agreement for trading goods worth $10 million. A Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] was signed by the State Trading Corporation of India and the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh on Sunday. Under the MOU, Bangladesh would export newsprint, glycerine, paraffin, semi-tanned leather, raw jute, bitumen emulsion, jamdani sarees, books, and periodicals. It would import from India hospital equipment, cement, construction materials, tyres, tubes, ball bearings, agricultural goods and spices, components of television sets, fruits, ambulances, and chemical products.

Iran

'No Major Difference' in Clinton, Bush Policies

NC2607105293 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Jul 93 p 3

[Unattributed commentary: "The Clinton Administration's Hostile Policy on Iran"]

[Text] After the Clinton administration came to power, in view of the new conditions that were created, and recalling the failure of the U.S. stance on Iran, you might have assumed the new administration would have been less hostile toward Iran. But the policies on areas that are of vital importance to U.S. interests are commonly adopted and pursued by both the U.S. parties and there are no major differences between the two on such issues.

Traditionally, the Democrats have a stronger interest in and dependence on the Zionists and their Middle East policies are solely in Israel's hands. Thus, the policy on Iran, which focuses on defeating the Islamic revolution or pushing it toward compromise, has not changed; indeed, the Democrats are more hostile in their tactics because of their rancor toward the Islamic Republic. This rancor dates back to the presidency of the previous Democratic President Carter and his inability to support the shah and crush the revolution and to the arrest of the American spies in Tehran—according to the Westerners, the hostage crisis—leading to his and the Democrats' defeat in the presidential election. In view of all these, the Democratic Party will try to use various means to achieve the major objective of U.S. foreign policy on Iran, that is, achieving the Islamic revolution's compromise, thus making up for its past defeat and strengthening the party's position at home.

The defeat of the Islamic revolution or the achievement of a compromise can have considerable and extremely important results for the United States and its vital interests. Now that the Cold War has ended and the United States sees itself unrivalled in dominating the world, the Islamic Republic's militant nature and the spreading of its slogans worldwide and among the Muslim masses constitute the greatest threat to U.S. hegemony. Today, any struggle by oppressed masses against U.S. hegemony and bullying anywhere is linked with the Islamic revolution and its slogans. The revolution has been exported and its slogans are activating Muslim masses in the remotest corners in a struggle against the illegitimate and hegemonistic interests of the United States. The struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem, which is being carried out in the name of Islam, has been revitalized and is threatening the existence of that regime. Inside the United States itself, the fear that is felt over the infiltration and power of Islam finds the World Trade Center explosion being blamed on its most direct opponent and enemy, that is, militant Islam. In Somalia, the fight against the interfering policy of the United States is attributed to Islamists and in Egypt and Algeria, the Islamists seek to establish Islamic rule by following the slogans of the Islamic revolution. Similarly, in every part of the Third World where there is a fight against the United States and its hegemony, the name of Islam and of Islamists who are influenced by the slogans of the Islamic revolution is heard.

Achieving the Islamic Republic's compromise will destroy the revolutionary and Islamic symbol of this movement and the forces that stimulate it. By removing such a legendary force, all the revolutionary and combative efforts of the masses in the Third World against U.S. hegemony will be questioned and the resulting disillusionment will halt every revolutionary movement.

Efforts to score success in the various economic, political, cultural, social, and military aspects will be exerted and the United States will resort to every means to achieve this end. In the military arena, the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war was the clearest example of such an effort by the United States. In the economic field, the very great pressures inflicted by the United States and its allies on our country during the years of the Islamic revolution and the pressure to push our economy toward the capitalist system by resorting to various means such as the IMF is considered the latest ploy toward this end. In the political sphere, the United States has resorted to various forums affiliated with the United Nations, such as the Human Rights Commission, to other methods, such as propounding the issue of Salman Rushdie, and to aiming accusations over Iran's involvement in other countries' domestic affairs and in the killing of opponents of the Islamic Republic abroad and so on. In the cultural and social fields too, there is pressure on Iran to

accept Western criteria and patterns. Public opinion, especially that of the young, is pushed toward this end and—as a result—the favorable social grounds for accepting its political and economic hegemony are paved. This is referred to as the cultural offensive and constitutes yet further scope for U.S. efforts to achieve the success of its policy of defeating the Islamic revolution or gaining its compromise. With the rejection of the West's social culture or its cultural and moral diktat, U.S. political and economic diktat will become very difficult to achieve.

Within the context of these methods and this rancor by the Democrats, the issue of relations between the United States and Iran and, following that, Washington's new doctrine in the Persian Gulf is viewed. For these reasons, it seems that the policy of the new U.S. Administration will be no less hostile than that of the previous Administration. Recent remarks by U.S. officials and especially by Secretary of State Warren Christopher are proof of this.

The extensive psychological war the United States has started in a bid to accuse Iran of trying to gain access to nuclear arms and its efforts to instigate the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to start the commotion about the islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb, the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council's support for the UAE, and Iran's being accused of involvement in the operations by the revolutionary Muslims in Egypt, Algeria, and occupied Palestine all speak of the coordinated programs by the Democrats and Republicans on Iran.

One of the new methods of the U.S. Administration in confronting its potential and actual enemies is reliance on regional rules. The same applies to the Persian Gulf. Washington's new doctrine on the Persian Gulf is based on support for dependent regional rules so as to contain Iran. Experts on regional affairs, including Martin Indyk, who heads the research center on the Near East in Washington, say:

"In addition to its own presence...the United States will help its friends in the Persian Gulf to increase their defense capability so that they can defend themselves against possible attacks by Iran or Iraq."

Commenting on the reduction in the U.S. military budget and a review of U.S. military structure, the same experts say:

"In view of the budget reduction, the U.S. defense system will be based on a mobile force with the capability of rapid deployment, mainly dependent on regional allies. If necessary, it will consider direct and rapid intervention by the United States itself in implementing this new U.S. doctrine on the Persian Gulf."

Western experts on regional affairs also believe that this capability by the United States to intervene in the Persian Gulf will be increased, if necessary, for a possible confrontation with Iran if it adopts a hostile policy. We discussed this issue in detail, which is why we should not think that the U.S. administration headed by Clinton will adopt a policy of isolation.

But it should also be noted that the new U.S. Administration is not only following a policy of threats and pressure to achieve the Islamic revolution's surrender or compromise. It is also pursuing a policy of conciliation and sometimes publishes articles and speeches and organizes unofficial conferences to show its goodwill. Various views are heard, including expressions of goodwill and reconciliatory remarks by renowned U.S. experts on Iranian affairs in which proposals for reconciliation and compromise to ensure the interests of both sides are mooted. But experience has proven that such movements and such proposals have never been sincere; they have been a means for testing the Islamic Republic's readiness to accept compromise, its allegiance to its aspirations, and the strength of its domestic and foreign bases.

The recent conference at Harvard University, entitled Islamic Iran After the (Imam) Khomeyni Era: Internal and External Problems, with the participation of some so-called experts on Iranian affairs, including Gary Sick and Richard Catem [names as published], is an example of such efforts. The United States has always resorted to treachery and deceit. The U.S. Administration does not want to stop its bullying and hegemony; history proves this.

Economic, Trade Agreement Signed With Libya

NC2807104293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] At the conclusion of the deliberations of the fifth session of the joint Iranian-Libyan commission, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding. According to this memorandum, which was signed by our minister of labor and social affairs and the Libyan industries minister, the two countries will cooperate in the economic, commercial, technical, and industrial fields as well as in transportation, communications, labor and social affairs, and scientific and cultural matters.

Iran and Libya expressed their eagerness to increase the volume of commercial exchanges and to encourage the commercial firms of the two countries to enter into mutual dealings, barter transactions and so on.

According to our correspondent, our minister for labor and social affairs, Hoseyn Kamali, said at the conclusion of the session: A remarkable consensus was attained at the fifth session of the joint Iranian-Libyan commission as compared to earlier sessions, and the volume of economic exchanges and the cooperation between the two countries envisaged in the technical and commercial fields and labor and social affairs is now at a more appropriate level.

The Libyan industries minister described the outcome of the session as positive, saying: The agreements reached

between the two countries will be instrumental in further broadening Iranian-Libyan cooperation.

* Customs, Transport Agreement Signed With Turkmenistan

93LA0120C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 23 Jun 93 p 10

[Text] Tehran—24 Khordad [14 Jun]. Based on the signing of letters of agreement between Iran and Turkmenistan, cooperation in customs and transportation will increase between the two nations.

This agreement was signed in 'Eshqabad by Manuchehr Mottaki, Iran's deputy foreign minister for legislative and parliamentary consular affairs, and Khalykberdi Atayev, Turkmenistan's foreign minister.

Under this agreement, in one month scheduled passenger bus lines will be established between the customs stations in Bajgiran and Gudan and the Pol-e Qadri guard station.

Iran and Turkmenistan also agreed to issue six-month visas with 15-day residence permits to their drivers of international vehicles who are engaged in the hauling of merchandise.

Based on the agreement between Iran and Turkmenistan, it will be possible for all personal vehicles to pass between the two countries with a transit card, an international driver's license, and a technical booklet for the vehicle.

Based on this agreement, Iran and Turkmenistan also promised to process within 10 days applications to embassies for merchant and commercial visas and to inform their ministries of commerce and their chambers of commerce.

Iran and Turkmenistan also agreed that border customs offices for the two countries will operate every day of the week, that all commercial freight loads will conform to international shipping standards, and that the bills of lading for the freight will give the particulars for all the freight.

Iran also announced its willingness to help train customs workers in Turkmenistan and agreed to the establishment of a Supreme Border Commission chaired by officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Ministries of the Interior.

Both countries agreed to cooperate more extensively in the joint construction of border dams and the fight against smuggling.

Tehran Hopes To Close Nuclear Deal With Russia

PM2707153693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Contacts With a View to Signing Nuclear Cooperation Deal Between Iran and Russia"]

[Excerpts] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official sources yesterday revealed that Iranian and Russian experts will meet in Tehran next month to put the final touches on plans for a major nuclear development program in Iran.

Tehran hopes to conclude the deal early so that Russian President Boris Yeltsin can sign the new cooperation treaty when he makes his first official visit to Iran. [passage omitted]

The project in question includes the establishment of two nuclear power stations in the Central and South Iran and provisions for training hundreds of Iranian technicians in Russia. The project also includes building a nuclear research center, probably in Esfahan.

The United States warns that the project is bound to speed up Iran's acquisition of military nuclear technology and to change the balance of power radically in that sensitive region. The Clinton administration has asked Russia to reconsider the initial agreement concluded with Iran in the days of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The experts' meetings have been postponed three times so far—which reflects hesitation in Moscow whether to go ahead with the deal or to abandon it. But Iran is keen to commit Russia to long-term projects, including huge arms sales.

Iranian sources say that Yeltsin is unlikely to visit Tehran before the end of the year. The Russian president is under mounting pressure from Washington to cancel all the contracts concluded with Iran relating to "dual-purpose" equipment and technologies.

But Russia is experiencing severe difficulties, compelling it to look for any source of hard currency, and believes that the financial profits it will reap from its sales to Iran are a tempting and irresistable source. [passage omitted]

Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Nematollah Yazdi said in a press interview yesterday that Tehran is willing to provide "all the necessary guarantees and assurances" that the nuclear project will not be used to develop weapons of mass destruction. "I hope we will reach a complete agreement and President Yeltsin will be able to visit Tehran," he added. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani Condemns Israeli Attacks on South Lebanon

LD2707162393 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday condemned the Zionist regime for its ruthless attacks against the civilian population in south Lebanon.

"You can witness how in the oppressed Lebanon the Zionist regime is engaged in an impudent, military attack in order to bring about destruction on a massive scale and unfortunately the international bodies and the arrogant powers claiming to safeguard international rules are encouraging the Zionist regime by their tacit approval," the president added.

He was addressing the organizing committee in charge of Tehran's Friday prayers.

The Zionist regime has stepped up its military operations in south Lebanon in the past three days.

Fawzi Sallukh, Lebanese ambassador to Austria, told IRNA in an interview yesterday that the Zionist attacks on Lebanese civilian areas had left 12 people dead, most of them children, women and elderly.

President Condemns Armenian 'Occupation' of Agdam

NC2807105293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has condemned the occupation of the city of Agdam by the Armenian Armed Forces. Minister for Roads and Transportation Sa'idi-Kia, who is currently on a visit to Baku, met Geydar Aliyev, acting president and speaker of the Azerbaijan National Assembly yesterday and conveyed a message on behalf of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

This message expressed the apprehension and opprobrium of the Government and the people of Iran with regard to the recent acts of aggression and denounced the Armenian Armed Forces' occupation of Agdam.

Expressing his gratitude at the assistance the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran provide to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Geydar Aliyev requested that it continue.

During this meeting, matters related to air, sea, and land transportation by means of railroads and highways were discussed. The two sides stressed the need for boosting and broadening relations between the two countries in various fields.

Khamene'i Condemns Aggression Against Muslims

LD2707162793 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Tabriz, Eastern Azerbaijan Province, July 27, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday condemned the Armenian acts of aggression against Muslims.

"The Armenian Government and Armenians in Karabakh are oppressing Muslims of that region and we condemn the recent actions of Karabakh Armenians carried out with the support of the Yerevan government," the leader said. The supreme leader, who was addressing a huge crowd of people, added "we expect Armenians inside the country (Iran) to condemn the behavior of the Armenians of that region."

Ayatollah Khamene'i, also referring to the oppression of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Tajikistan, touched on the latest Zionist attacks on civilian population of South Lebanon and bombardment of mosques, villages and homes. The leader said that Palestine and Lebanon are symbols of the injustice and oppression of global arrogance.

The Zionist regime, enjoying support of the White House, is taking the defenceless Lebanese people as target of its most savage attacks. "No doubt, we consider the U.S. claim of being the upholder of the banner of human rights as wicked and shameful gestures."

The leader of the Islamic revolution arrived in this northwestern provincial capital this morning to an enthusiastic welcome of the local people and officials. Hundreds of thousands of people lined up the streets of the city for hours to accord an unprecedented welcome to the leader.

Khamene'i Addresses Citizens of Tabriz

LD2707201893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Announcer-read throughout]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] After arriving this morning in the city of Tabriz, known for its excellent treatment of heroes, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, addressed a huge gathering of people in the city. He praised the great and historic role played by the Muslim and revolutionary people of Azerbaijan, especially Tabriz, in the history of Islamic Iran. In his remarks, which were greeted enthusiastically by his audience, the esteemed leader said the territory of Azerbaijan had held the forward lines of Iran's front against aggressors and insurgents during the past few centuries.

He said: Due to the weakness of the kings of the Qajar dynasty and to the incompetence of the political and military men of those times, Georgia and 17 other

townships of the Caucasus were separated from Iran. That stopped when the brave people here stood up against the invading army; they saved this region [Azerbaijan] of dear Iran. [passage omitted]

Continuing, the leader of the Islamic revolution said the religious faith of the Muslim people took precedence over any other consideration. He said: Individual members of the Iranian nation from any ethnic grouping—whether Turk, Persian, Arab, Kurd, Lur, Baluch, Turkmen, or any other Iranian ethnic groups—are Muslims before anything else. Those who tried in the past years to turn ethnic groups in Iran against Islam and the Koran now have learned of their mistake, because our people in all parts of the Islamic homeland have learned the great lesson that Islamic brotherhood and faith take priority over any other consideration.

The esteemed leader said the territorial integrity of the great and Islamic Iran is one of the most sacred ideals of the people of Iran, adding that the people of Tabriz and Azerbaijan have defended the territorial integrity of Islamic Iran by standing up against invaders, both before and after the revolution. Also, the youth of Azerbaijan who enlisted in the Basij Sepah [Revolutionary Guards] and the Army defended the territorial integrity of Islamic Iran by their presence in various fronts of the imposed war. [passage omitted]

The esteemed leader stressed the need to fully utilize all capable forces in the drive for construction in order to enable Iran to stand tall in the face of its enemies. He said: The President of the United States has openly said that he is making every effort to make the people of Iran face economic difficulties. This comes after 14 years of their great efforts to impose an economic blockade on Iran. Given the opportunity, they would not hesitate for a moment to do anything that would have a negative impact on the fate of the Iranian nation. But the courage, alertness, and unity of this nation have always deprived the enemies of Islam of success. [passage omitted]

At another point in his speech, the esteemed leader referred to the injustices imposed on the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tajikistan, and Karabakh. He then said: The Armenian Government and the Armenians of Karabakh are imposing injustices on the Muslims of that region. We condemn the recent acts of the Armenians of Karabakh, which were committed with the support of the Armenian Government. We expect the Armenians living in our country will also condemn the behavior of the Armenians of that region. [passage omitted]

President Expresses Regret at Libyan 'Hardships'

LD2707143093 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, receiving the visiting Libyan Minister of Industries Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi here Tuesday, expressed regret over the hardships imposed on Libya by its enemies.

The president said that arrogant powers were seeking excuses to put the revolutionary countries of the world into trouble and expressed hope that these countries could foil this plot through resistance and tolerance. Referring to the historical ties between Tehran and Tripoli, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that mutual relations could be deepened and strengthened by the Irano-Libyan joint economic commission.

Al-Talhi expressed Libya's willingness to broaden ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also briefed the president on the social and political situation in Libya.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani To Visit Kazakhstan 'Soon'

LD2707152193 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is to pay a state visit to Almaty, Kazakhstan, soon, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday .

The president will hold talks his Kazakh counterpart on further expansion of bilateral political, cultural and scientific ties, Velayati added.

The foreign minister made the remark in the opening day of the third training session for seven Kazakh diplomats, offered by the Foreign Ministry's diplomatic training center.

Velayati said that the center helps promote Tehran's relationship with foreign diplomats.

* Complete Reshuffle of New Cabinet Rumored

93LA0120B London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] As the time approaches for presenting Hashemi-Rafsanjani's new cabinet to the Majles, and for the struggle to get each minister approved, the struggle between the centers of power has intensified as each seeks to get as many people to its liking on the cabinet as possible.

Although one of the cabinet ministers, no doubt at Rafsanjani's bidding, has denied the rumors about changing the cabinet, informed sources in Tehran report that the departure of several ministers and the arrival of several others is a certainty. The very next day after the results of the election for president of the republic were announced, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Majles, stated plainly at a press conference that if Hashemi-Rafsanjani presents the present members of his cabinet to the Majles again, the Majles will not vote for all of them.

The question is, will Hasan Habibi, vice president of the republic, be dismissed to become minister of justice? In this regard it is highly likely that 'Ali Akbar Velayati will take his place and it is said that the foreign ministry will be turned over to Kamal Kharrazi, who is now the

Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent UN representative. Informed sources in New Y[]rk say that although Kharrazi makes a lot of anti-American and anti-Western noise, in reality he is more pro-Western than 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

While the bazaar and those Majles deputies who are close to the bazaar are exerting pressure to get the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce, Qom Seminary is showing great interest in putting its hands on the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Ministry of Education and Training, and the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. On the other hand, 'Ali Khamene'i and Akbar Rafsanjani must compromise on who will run the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministries of Intelligence and Security, and Defense.

The trap waiting for Rafsanjani is elsewhere, however. His opponents and rivals are trying to get control of the Radio and Television Organization, and to achieve this they are willing to give an important ministerial post to Mohammad Hashemi, the current chief of the Radio and Television Organization, but to the extent that he can, Rafsanjani will resist this effort to slyly lure his brother away from the Radio and Television Organization.

A War Whose News Is Not Fully Reported

Informed sources in Iran and Europe say that the war in Kordestan in Iran between government forces and Kurdish armed forces from the Democratic Party of Kordestan and Komeleh is more intense than we read in the press, and it is worth noting that for various reasons neither side is interested in publishing the war's real casualty figures.

While the Kurds publish detailed reports on Iranian attacks on their headquarters in Iraq, they are practically silent on their casualties in Iran, because that is one of the points of international public opinion in their favor. This could also lead to the conclusion that in the course of their legitimate defense, the Iranian forces are also drawing the battle into Iraqi soil because the armed Kurds are using Iraqi soil as rear echelon territory for their attack on Iranian armed forces.

As for the reason for the Islamic Republic's silence on casualties among Iran's armed forces, it is clearly to keep from weakening the morale of the armed forces and at the same time to convey the idea that the government is completely in control throughout Iranian territory.

It is reported from Tehran, however, that several weeks ago the battle became so intense that a pilot captain named Amir Hushang Qanbarzadeh and a revolutionary guard commander named Rahmatollah Sayadi were killed.

Pakistan

Government Ready To Sign Nuclear Test Ban Pact

BK2807114693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Pakistan has again expressed its readiness to conclude a regional nuclear test ban agreement in anticipation of a global test ban treaty. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad this afternoon that this proposal was conveyed to New Delhi as far back as June 1987 by the then-Pakistani prime minister and was reiterated very recently. He, however, regretted that India has continued to respond negatively to this Pakistani proposal.

Editorial on Bid To End Nuclear 'Rift' With U.S.

BK2607144793 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 26 Jul 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Nuclear program and Pakistan-U.S. relations"]

[Text] According to a newspaper report, decisive talks between Pakistan and the United States will begin soon to eliminate the coolness in their relations and the rift on the nuclear issue. According to the report, the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Washington and Pakistan's UN envoy Jamshed Marker have held preliminary talks in this regard. Pakistan-U.S. relations have experienced ups and downs from the very beginning. This is actually due to the attitude of the United States, and is usual in its dealings with its allies and friends. Pakistan aligned with the United States in Southeast Asia Treaty Organization and the Central Treaty Organization and acted as the biggest hurdle to the spread of communism in this region. But when it needed U.S. help in confronting its eternal enemy India, the United States refused, citing the 1959 agreement. On the contrary, India's ally—the Soviet Union—wholeheartedly supported India and played a role in dismembering Pakistan.

The United States once again became generous to us and sent economic and military assistance when it needed Pakistan after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. The U.S. posture changed again after the Soviet Union's smashing defeat in Afghanistan. After stopping the economic and military aid to Pakistan, the United States is now exerting pressure on its friends to deprive Pakistan of any assistance. Talks have also been continuing for the last year about declaring Pakistan a terrorist state, and Pakistan's nuclear program is being made a specific target of criticism. Given this situation, a fresh offer from the United States to restore warm relations deserves cautious consideration.

Having no popular elected government in the country at present, there is a great danger that the United States will be successful in forcing the government to make some fundamental decisions on the nuclear issue either by

exerting pressure or by enticing it with a promise of economic aid. The fact is that the nation is very sensitive on the issues of Pakistan-India relations and the nuclear program, and it is not willing to allow its government to think of rolling back the program under U.S. pressure or to accept any sort of U.S.-imposed conditions. Of course, if the United States realizes its mistake and is now willing to develop cordial relations with Pakistan under the existing economic, political and defense policies, then it is welcome. The fee for excluding Pakistan from the list of terrorist states should never be paid by rolling back its nuclear program.

Editorial Assails U.S. Over Chinese Missiles Issue

BK2307121693 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 23 Jul 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Chinese missiles that never arrived"]

[Text] It has been widely report in the international media that the US has threatened to impose economic sanctions on China because of the alleged sale of medium-range missile components to Pakistan. The State Department claims that the evidence of sale was presented to the Clinton administration quite a while ago when the question of granting China the status of most favoured nation came up. But the President reportedly decided to ignore it as the US did not wish to alienate the Asian giant. One wonders why the issue has been revived at this particular point in time. The apparent reason given by the US for being worried about this deal is the professed aim of the US to stop the proliferation of advance military technology to prevent future conflicts. The motive would have been laudable if we did not have an authentic report, not so far denied by America, that the US share of arms trade of the world has increased appreciably after the cold war. Washington's lethal exports list also includes high-tech strategic systems. That makes one questions whether it is commercial rivalry or desire for peace which is prompting Washington to raise this issue. We do not have to go very far to find out why US has been caught in this dilemma of not putting its money where its mouth is. Its inability to compete in the world market is compelling it to sell sophisticated weapons, thus promoting the undesirable spread of lethal systems.

Another aspect of this contrived crisis is that both China and Pakistan have denied striking such a deal. All these circumstances lead to the suspicion that there are ulterior motives behind the future. Only recently, under US pressure, Moscow cancelled part of a deal for the transfer of rocket technology to India. Analysts believe that in order to appease India and pro-Indian lobby, Washington wants to appear even-handed and the threat to China may be a balancing act. However the two situations are substantially different. Moscow was allowed to proceed with the sale of space-rockets but it scrapped the transfer of factory to India, which only means that if New Delhi wants more rockets, it will have to go back to the shop. Political expediency and not dread of proliferation is behind American action.

We cannot help raising a basic question. If Americans want to stop the proliferation of advance weaponry, they have no moral or legal right to impose it on sovereign states. They themselves admit of having double standards; therefore their motives will remain suspect. The most appropriate forum for introducing a just and fair regime is the United Nations, where a set of rules applicable to all nations must be devised and implemented. The present attitude of American is based on fundamental dishonesty and rank arrogance. The US can never be a policeman for the entire world. It should instead concentrate on its productivity and competitiveness. Although it is the top most military power in the world, it has become a fourth rate economic power. The greatest threat to world peace at present is the US itself as it is likely to promote wars to find markets for merchandise.

Sharif Confident of Securing 'Massive Majority' in Election

BK2807090893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Nawaz Sharif, president of the Pakistan Muslim League, has expressed confidence that he will return to power again with a massive majority in the coming elections. In an interview with a foreign news agency in Murree yesterday, he said that his policies of privatization and liberalization of rules and regulations in the financial sector will be the main issues in his election campaign. He said that policies which benefit the poor, disadvantaged, landless, and unemployed will also be highlighted during campaigning.

Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party Withdraws Support for PPP

BK2707085293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Retired Air Marshal Mohammad Asghar Khan, leader of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, has said that the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] has practically ceased to exist. He said this in a letter to Ms. Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], sent to her after the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal national working party met in Lahore yesterday. The Tehrik-i-Istiqlal chief said that the present stand of the PPP totally negates the objectives for which the PDA was formed. He said that at a time when vital national interests are at stake, it is difficult for his party to support the present policies of the PPP.

Finance Ministry Spokesman Denies Foreign Exchange Crisis

BK2607115393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Jul 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—A ministry of finance spokesman has described as "utterly baseless and mischievous" the report that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have dipped to a dangerously low level and are only sufficient for four days of imports.

The spokesman said: "The factual position is that the country's liquid foreign exchange reserves are improving and are adequate to meet all obligations including those of debt servicing and import payments."

He added: "It is absolutely incorrect that any proposal for rescheduling Pakistan's external debt is under consideration of the government."

"The caretaker government is continuously reviewing the situation, and taking all necessary steps to maintain reserves at a sustainable level," the spokesman said.

Sri Lanka

Premier Invites LTTE To Enter Negotiations

BK2807113593 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe says the door is still open for the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to give up arms and enter the negotiating table to solve the Northeast problem. The government, parliament, and all political parties desire a political rather than a military solution to this issue. But, he said, all attempts to solve it through negotiations had not met with any favorable response. The prime minister was addressing troops at security forces camps at Palali and Karainagar during a fact-finding tour of the Northeast.

The prime minister is scheduled to submit a full report on his tour to the president.

The prime minister pointed out that the security forces and the police were now carrying out the program of liberating terrorist-dominated areas and restoring the civil administration in them. No one will be allowed to jeopardize this effort. The LTTE should, therefore, give up violence and harassment of innocent civilians and strive for a negotiated settlement to the Northeast problem.

LTTE Attacks Army Camp in Northeast

BK2507111293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Tamil guerrillas killed one officer and six soldiers in attack on an Army camp in northeast Sri Lanka early today. A military spokesman said five soldiers were wounded in the attack on Janakpura camp in the Vellavelli area, which began shortly after midnight. Military sources said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] rebels had overrun the camp and many soldiers were missing. They said troops have now retaken the camp. The spokesman confirmed that some soldiers were missing, but said he could not give numbers as some could return to base later on. He said air strikes were launched to drive off the rebels.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0859 GMT on 25 July in a similar report adds: "The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) killed 14 soldiers and an officer at the Janakpura Army camp which forms part of the defenses of a controversial Sinhalese farmer settlement, a military spokesman said. He said 15 civilians in the area were also killed in the LTTE's heavy mortar bomb attack, raising to at least 30 the total number of people killed in the pre-dawn strike against the security forces.

["Initial reports had given the casualties as 20 soldiers killed and 18 wounded. However, the military later said that 15 more soldiers in two other nearby camps escaped with injuries. Military sources said seven soldiers were reported missing after the attack."]